The Glamorgan GEM

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH, 2015

ALUN CAIRNS - STANDING UP FOR THE VALE ALL YEAR ROUND

Cairns secures life changing operation for Barry schoolgirl

Nine year old Barry schoolgirl Niamh Hurn has won her battle to receive a life changing £30,000 operation after Alun Cairns MP pressed the case for funding from the NHS.

Following an intervention from Alun, the operation will now take place tomorrow, transforming the opportunities for young Niamh.

Mum Michelle Hurn from Barry said: "We want to thank Alun – without him we wouldn't have achieved this. My local MP played a vital role in ensuring that my daughter received the £30,000 life changing operation. We didn't think we would win the battle, but my whole family is grateful for the intervention from Alun. His support throughout the process was hugely valuable, and I know that Alun would support any family in Barry and the Vale in the same way. Above all, my local MP is approachable and does what he says he will do."

Mr Cairns said: "I am absolutely thrilled at the news that Niamh will get the much needed operation in the next few days. We worked hard for several months to get the operation approved on the NHS. The chances of a successful operation was very much time dependent as it was needed for Niamh before she was 10 years old. We were always hopeful that the NHS would fund the operation, but to get confirmation was such an emotional feeling.

"The Hurn family are a credit to the community – they have done an incredible amount of fundraising, and to see how happy the family were upon receiving the news, is a real highlight during my time as an MP."

Local MP sniffs out good cause

Vale MP and keen runner, Alun Cairns, is in training for the 2015 London Marathon next month as he aims to complete the course as the fastest MP and raise money for two local charities.

Mr Cairns will be running in less than a month to raise money for the Holton Road branch of the pet charity PDSA and Macmillan Cancer Support. The MP will be running the marathon just two weeks before the General Election on May 7th, and has been in training since Christmas to try and beat his previous time in 2014.

In Barry, the PDSA will benefit from the fundraising after Mr Cairns met with Barry resident Gail Smith and her dog 'Champ' who receives regular support for chronic diabetes.

Gail Smith from Barry said: "I am really pleased that my local MP will be running the marathon in aid of the PDSA. The charity has helped my family and Champ so much, and I am so grateful for the work they do. I will be supporting Alun in April, and hope he finishes as the fastest MP again."

To sponsor Alun Cairns, visit http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Alun Cairns

Keep up to date with local news: fb.com/aluncairns

ALUN SECURES ISLAND DEAL

Alun Cairns has expressed his delight that Barry Island will see a new top class fairground open ready for the summer.

For many months, Alun has played a key role in bringing together and guiding negotiations between the Barry Island Property Company and the new funfair operator Henry Danter.

The arrival of a new fairground on the Pleasure Park site is great news for Barry Island and the wider Vale. Alun is working with the new owner Henry Danter to build plans for the development of a multimillion pound funfair on the four acre site opening soon.

Alun said: "I am so pleased that the many months of hard work will result in a top class fairground for Barry. It has been a rollercoaster ride, but I have worked closely with parties involved to enable a wonderful boost for the area. It has been my aim since being elected in 2010 to get the Barry Island project moving. It is just the start, I know from speaking to local people that the desire exists for the Vale to make the most of its potential – I am determined to make the most of our natural assets.

He added: "I see this new scheme as just the start of significant regeneration in Barry that can boost the economy, create jobs and see businesses growing as a result of this significant investment. The time is right for private investment when we have low unemployment and the long term economic plan is working."

The MP has spelt out his plans to develop Barry and other parts into a year round destination with Barry Island the catalyst for growth in tourism in the wider Vale. During negotiations Alun discussed the project personally with the Prime Minister David Cameron, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and Secretary of State for Local Government Eric Pickles.

This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives.

YOUR LETTERS

Operation due to MP's intervention

I wanted to write and highlight the enormous role Alun Cairns played in ensuring that my daughter received a £30,000 life changing operation on the NHS.

We didn't think we would win the battle, but my whole family is grateful for his intervention – he is approachable and does what he says he will do. His support throughout the process was hugely valuable, and I know that Alun would support any family in Barry and the Vale in the same way.

Michelle Hurn, Barry

MP secures my blue badge

Thank you, Alun. Though I've known him for a number of years, Alun's support since my accident in Rhoose, has been invaluable.

He's helped me in a number of ways to rebuild my life and helping me to win my battle for a blue badge has allowed me to do what I love best – working with children.

Alun has always been available to talk when I needed him and, moreover, he would come to see me and listen to the problems I had. Then sorted it all out within days. He is a fantastic local MP who will help anyone in the community.

Karin Williams, Rhoose

Continue to fight excessive housing, Alun

Alun Cairns MP clearly understands the issues surrounding excessive housing developments in communities.

He has provided an enormous amount of guidance and support in helping us fight excessive housing plans in Barry. He is always seen in the community, and knows people in every street.

That is what we expect from our local MP and that is why we wanted to write in. Housing is a hugely important issue in Barry and the rural Vale, and we are fortunate to have an MP that understands the system and the impact it can have on local residents.

Frank and Debra Cleland, Barry

Volunteering at its best

Credit where it's due, me and my friends agree that our MP Alun Cairns has been an MP that is genuinely trying to improve communities in the Vale of Glamorgan, and is happy to support residents no matter whether the issue is large or small. He has done so much for the volunteers that do so much in the local community.

He has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity over the years, and has been a wonderful champion of local good causes. Nothing is too much trouble for Alun, and he has always tried to support our events that provide support and care in Barry and the wider Vale – long may it continue!

Chris Whitchurch, Barry

WORKING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO RESOLVE THEIR CONCERNS

Without question, the plans for excessive housing across Barry and the Vale have formed the largest part of my postbag over the last 5 years.

Whether you live near Highlight Park or Weycock Cross in Barry; Colwinston, Ystradowen, Cowbridge, St Nicholas, Wick or Wenvoe in the rural Vale, communities have been angry at how large numbers of houses are being foisted upon them.

In credit to the campaign groups in each community, all accept the need for some new housing. After all, we all have children and families and want them to be able to live in our community. Their anger was at the scale of development that was wholly against the natural extension of the settlement.

Worries also focussed around infrastructure, the impact on schools and local health services etc.

The background stems from the Welsh Government's directive to build 10,000 new houses in the Vale. This is a massive increase - 54% on the average built over the previous 15 years. The Vale Council had the opportunity to challenge the figure but chose not to do so. I objected strongly.

The next stage of the Local Development Plan is for the Vale Council to publish amendments based on the consultations. This amended plans will then be passed on to the Welsh Government for approval. I am a little concerned that this step seems to have been delayed. I hope that they are not planning more controversial proposals and waiting for the election to pass.

If the Welsh Government accepted new laws from the UK Parliament, we wouldn't be in this situation. In England, local communities are given much more control over their 'Neighbourhood Plans'. I personally asked the politicians in Cardiff Bay whether Wales could be included in the change of law. They refused.

Please be assured that I will do all I can to work with communities in challenging excessive proposals. We will have the opportunity to make our case to the Welsh Government directly. I plan to be there representing the whole of the Vale.

May I use this opportunity to thank all individuals and communities for their support over the last 5 years and I hope we can continue to do so after May 7th.

ALUN CAIRNS MP

Best for Dinas and the Vale

As an avid support of his, I can safely say that Alun Cairns is a highly respected and true representative of the people of Dinas Powys and the Vale.

His integrity, accessibility and hard work is enhanced by his ability to speak both Welsh and English. He is fighting for the transport network to be prioritised locally, and has held regular community meetings to listen and act upon the views of the residents. I have no doubt, judging by the letters in this paper, that many others feel the same way.

Margaret Hayley, Dinas Powys

Llandow and our MP

Many people have written lately about our MP Alun Cairns to this paper, but I couldn't think of a better person than him to represent the Vale of Glamorgan in Parliament.

His support for my area throughout the past five years is really appreciated, and I know that if he takes as much interest in other parts of the Vale as he does in Llandow then he is a champion of the area.

I hope Alun gets back in and is allowed to continue to be a wonderful campaigner for the Vale of Glamorgan.

Jane Spill, Llandow

I'm backing Alun for Barry

I have had the pleasure to know Alun for a number of years and he has been a vocal and active campaigner.

He has worked tirelessly to see the transformation of the iconic Barry Island Pleasure Park, and I know that he has done all he can to bring parties together, and find a solution to a long running saga. He believes in business being able to transform the prospects on Barry Island and create jobs and boost the economy.

Alun is a fantastic MP for Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan, and I am writing to tell people that I am supporting him again in 2015. I have lived in Wolfe Close for 40 years and have yet to see a Labour councillor – but my MP regularly visits the area and listens to real people.

Peter Woodford, Barry

Best for rural Vale

Our local MP Alun has taken up so many issues in the Vale of Glamorgan – from Peterston Super Ely right across to Ewenny he has fought battles on behalf of residents to achieve a positive outcome for the community.

The rural Vale has challenges around housing, and he instinctively understands the strength of feeling in a local village – and reflects that in his actions.

I know that if I call the office of Alun Cairns, then my views on any subject matter will be heard, considered and acted upon. He is a true champion of the local community, and I have no doubt many readers share this opinion.

Elizabeth Wills, Peterston Super Ely

Top notch service from top notch MP

I'm writing to highlight the fact that our MP Alun Cairns has been a wonderful support for me personally and gave me great assistance in helping me overcome a major issue. From the moment I approached him, I was confident that he understood and had a genuine concern.

It is my opinion that he went beyond the call of duty in helping me, and I regularly see him in Llantwit Major meeting local groups in the community. Thank you, Alun.

Mr G Smith, Llantwit Major

MP has my support

I'm writing to give my support to Alun Cairns in his campaign to retain his Parliamentary seat.

He has worked hard to resolve many issues of concern in Llantwit and the Vale and has taken wider issues to Westminster for attention. I wish him every success.

Heather March MBE, Llantwit

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THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH 2015

Pages 19-21 Spring into Easter at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

SIX NATIONS: Who said rugby is boring? BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

Pages 27-30 Spring COWBRIDGE Feature

British Summer Time starts at 2am this Sunday. Remember to put your clocks forward one hour

Under-14s are in the Blues Cup final!

LEFT: There was excitement on Sunday when Cowbridge under-14s' rugby team, pictured, beat Llanishen 48-7 to reach the final of the Blues Cup. This is the first time the team have reached the final, and hopes will be high that they can end the season with some silverware! See full report on page 18.

Hopes for livestock market site as Vale Council supports local group's plan

by PHILIP IRWIN

IT'S all smiles at the moment between Cowbridge and the Vale Council – after the council agreed to continue supporting a local group's plans to retain and revitalise the livestock market.

It is a far cry from the angry scenes in 2011, when council plans to close the market and build an extra care retirement facility sparked angry protests – including a well-attended march and public meeting.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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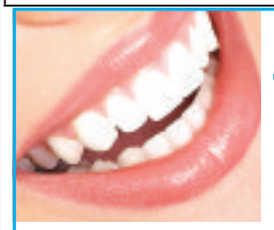
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Readers' Letters

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LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Welsh helped to turn tide

I NOTE that at a recent meeting of Barry Men's Forum, Polly Davies gave an inspirational talk on the use of the Navajo's language in modern warfare (Navajo wind talkers were a secret war weapon – Forum hears: The GEM, March 5).

Well, there is a parallel nearer home: on my maternal side, generations of my family have served in the RWF, Royal Welch Fusiliers. My uncle, the late Reuben Eric Jones (RSM) fought with the RWF in Burma against the Japanese Imperial Army for four years.

The Welsh language was routinely used in open communications, to the consternation and bewilderment, of the Japanese forces.

So, those who doubt it, can also see that Welsh DOES have its uses, as the chance of having a fluent Welsh speaker in the Japanese regiments at Kohima or the Arakan was nil.

The use by the RWF of Welsh undoubtedly contributed to saving lives, and eventually throwing the Emperor's troops out of Mandalay.

Christopher Short, Barry.

Destructive plan for Colwinston

I SEE that the Vale Council leader has got his priorities right – welcoming the wonderful new beach huts on Barry Island, presumably with 35 per cent affordable housing!

Perhaps he can explain why so many 'unaffordable' houses are being dumped in the rural Vale? In Colwinston, on two previous occasions in 1988 and 1991, planning consent was rejected on the same land.

It has now been railroaded through for 64 houses. If there is always a presumption for planning approval, why do we need a planning department and planning committee?

It would save a lot of council tax and trees, with no more reports containing endless waffle.

So what will the ancient village of Colwinston have in return for this horrendous and destructive development – Redrow offering £15,000 for a piece of useless public art at the site entrance? What an insult!

Mr T Morgan, Colwinston.

Welcome back!

HOW nice to see again an article by the local historian Brian Keitch, whose encyclopaedic knowledge has graced the columns of local newspapers for several years.

I'm glad to see he is back on the scene again, and I look forward to reading about transport in the past.

It is a pity that the ships we see from our coast have declined in number and made the seascape rather bleak; but the glories of past transport are always there to be enjoyed.

Brian Stephens, Penarth.

SEE MORE GEM READERS' LETTERS ON PAGE 23

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Taxation solution to 'affordable housing'

THE 'affordability' of housing in the Vale is rightly raised in letters to The GEM. Official UK Government figures show that first time buyers had to pay 96 per cent more in 2011 than in 2001 – and prices have risen since.

This was despite the number of dwellings increasing faster than the population in this period.

The cost of housing has risen due to an excess of money being invested into the housing market, rather than a shortage of supply. Property has become a 'safe investment', rather than a community asset and most importantly, homes.

Latest Welsh Government figures show that there are 23,000 empty properties in Wales – and there are more than 300 empty homes in the Vale, plus numerous commercial premises.

We should all aspire to own our own homes, free from landlord restrictions and threat of eviction and able to invest in improvements. However, Westminster gives more importance to the financial gain of landlords and developers than the aspirations and needs of citizens and communities.

Young people are increasingly the 'serfs' of landlords. Simply building more dwellings will not reduce prices. It is not in the interests of developers, or housing associations, for prices to drop, so their current plan for new housing developments throughout the Vale is not intended to reduce prices, or to benefit communities, but to increase their profits.

The answer to the housing affordability problem is to reduce 'excessive investment' in property – through the taxation system.

Ian Perry, Cardiff (formerly of the Vale)

The cost of leaving EU

WITH reference to a recent letter from Mr Bradshaw, he has knocked the EU without giving substantive alternatives.

Government by politicians answerable to their electorates? I assume he means the discredited first past the post system under which it is estimated that 60 per cent of UK votes cast have no impact on the outcome of a general election whereas every vote cast in an EU election counts because of proportional representation and, of course MEPs are, I understand, answerable to their electorate.

On the common fisheries policy, this was introduced to try to halt further rapid decline in fishing stocks in EU waters, not to destroy the livelihood of UK fishermen. The EU now regulates the size of mesh in fishing nets, which allows young and immature fish to escape, so all fish taken are landed.

Farmers grow whatever is suitable for their land and what attracts the biggest EU farming subsidy. Judging from the number of solar farm applications in the Vale, solar panels currently seem to be the best crop. Farmers will do what is in their economic interest.

As for joining with EFTA, it consists of Norway, Switzerland and those two other economic powerhouses, Iceland and Lichtenstein. Through a treaty function called the European Economic Area EFTA countries have access to the EU, but only provided that they abide by all relevant EU regulations, including CE marking.

The UK would still be bound by all EU trading regulations if we left the EU and rejoined EFTA, but we would have no power to influence those regulations.

The EU has a major role in the formulation of trading policy in the World Trade Organisation. Everyone wants to trade with the EU and we benefit greatly from this fact. The UN FAO was founded in 1945 and the UK is a member in its own right as well as helping to co-ordinate EU involvement. The UN ECE was founded in 1947 and again the UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has its own representation in this organisation.

David Kennett, Barry.

In memory of Nest

THE family of Nest Evans would like to thank all those who contributed to the fund created in memory of her for the NSPCC.

The sum raised was £1,000 and it will be sent from the Barry committee, which Nest supported for over 50 years and of which she became a very keen member in her retirement.

Carys Howe, Barry.

House building in the Vale...
'CHANGE HAPPENS, ADAPT TO IT'

I FEEL compelled to respond to the recent letter by D and L Giles Betts, the couple who moved from London to Cowbridge and suggested that more houses should be built in Barry and not Cowbridge.

My message to them is capitalism is great if you are successful at it. I don't have a problem with that – but with capitalism, whether it is being involved in the property market or making money off people – you need to realise that one day undesirables, or people who don't match your status, will inevitably be living on your doorstep.

You cannot fight, it will happen (we live on an island); unless you are in the top one per cent of the five per cent who can afford 40 acres of land with a surrouding 16-foot perimeter wall.

I have lived in Barry for almost 50 years. I have seen green spaces and beautiful old buildings replaced with eyesores, and more and more new estates springing up in and around Barry.

I don't care too much for change but it happens. I adapt, and so should you,

Mark Overton Barry

'Why this charge for bulky items?'

I PHONED the Vale of Glamorgan Council today to arrange a collection of a couple of bulky household items; there were no available dates until next month and the woman I spoke to said that there would then be a charge – approximately £15 for three items (yet to be set).

Don't we pay enough council tax already for this? I get it that there are cutbacks, but we seem to be getting less and less for our money.

I also find it very sneaky of the council not to have informed the public – disgraceful!

(Name and address supplied).

WELL DONE, MIKE & CO!

I HAD an appointment in Cowbridge at 9.30am on Friday and not wanting to miss the eclipse, I brought my welding mask with me.

Quite a number of people were keen to use the mask and, while viewing the event in the High Street, I was 'papped' by Mike Wilcock.

Mike, and the other pro bono contributors to The GEM make a huge unsung contribution to the building of community, via your newspaper, and deserve more recognition. They use their time and own resources freely and we, as readers, all benefit.

Chris Samuel.

FOOTNOTE: We could not agree more! The GEM is deeply appreciative of Mike's and our other unsung heroes' contributions.

Plaid Cymru offers another way out

HOUSEHOLDS across the Vale of Glamorgan will have received their new council tax demands with anger as they face higher bills, but cuts to services – such as libraries, street lighting and winter gritting.

In just three years, the Labour-Llantwit First coalition that run the Vale Council has increased Band D average council tax by £130, a result of cuts to Wales by a different coalition in Westminster and the Labour Government in Cardiff.

That's a 14 per cent increase in our council tax in three years – more than two and half times the rate of inflation. In contrast, Plaid Cymru in the Vale has proposed a reduced council tax and to protect services, such as our libraries.

Our economic proposals mean that Wales would be £2 billion better off under Plaid Cymru than under a Labour Government, and much better off than if the current Westminster Government is re-elected, with all of the damage that would do to Wales.

Plaid Cymru believes that investment, better jobs and a living wage are better for our economy than making cuts to public services.

Coun Ian Johnson, Barry.

(Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan)

Council tax increase?

A FEW weeks ago, it was announced that there would not be an increase in council tax for 2015-16.

Now the council has announced that there will be an increase. An early April Fool stunt perhaps?

Can someone please explain?

P Hill,Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL APRIL 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
26 Thur	10.31	8.8	22.52	8.5
27 Fri	11.21	8.1	23.49	7.9
28 Sat			12.32	7.6
29 Sun	02.12	7.4	14.59	7.3
30 Mon	03.41	7.6	16.22	7.6
31 Tues	04.49	8.0	17.17	8.2
01 Wed	05.36	8.5	17.59	8.7
02 Thur	06.19	9.0	18.39	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

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Local homelessness charity shop opens its doors in town!

EMMAUS South Wales is delighted to announce the successful opening of its new shop in Cowbridge.

The new store, next to Filco on the High Street, was opened by the Mayor of Cowbridge at 9.30am on Wednesday, March 18. The store is selling second hand clothing, bric-a-brac, small electrical items and furniture of high quality at great prices.

The charity already has shops in Bridgend, Maesteg, Neath and Porthcawl. This social enterprise provides income for Emmaus South Wales and will provide opportunities for work for the homeless people, called Companions, that Emmaus South Wales aims to help.

A companion can find a home at an Emmaus Community, with food and accommodation provided. However, a Companion must sign off all state benefits (excluding housing benefit) and agree to live by the Emmaus Community rules. Also, he or she must work a 40 hour week, usually in the Emmaus South Wales social enterprise.

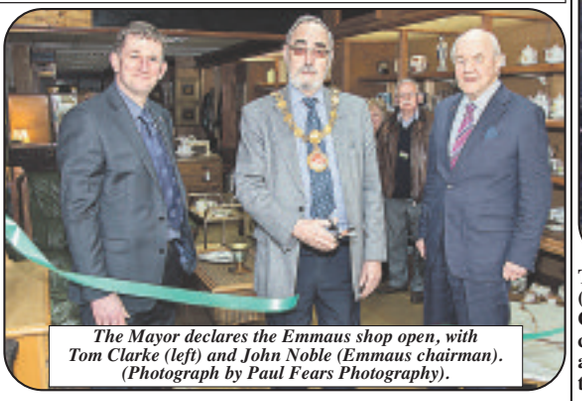
"It is an exciting time for Emmaus South Wales," said its director, Tom Clarke.

"We are in the process of buying Nant Lais in Bridgend, the Emmaus Community home which will be refurbished over the summer. Assuming everything goes according to plan, the Emmaus Community home will be ready by late autumn this year so that we can admit our first Companions soon after.

"We are really looking forward to opening Wales' first Emmaus Community, where we can give people who find themselves homeless the opportunity to get back onto their feet and regain control of their lives. So we are pleased to give the people of Cowbridge an opportunity to share in this success."

Emmaus was founded in 1949. A worldwide movement, it offers an alternative to homelessness by providing people with a home, work and companionship to help them to regain their self-esteem.

Emmaus South Wales won the Bridgend Business Forum Award for the 'Social Enterprise of the Year 2014'. For more information on Emmaus, visit www.emmaus.org.uk/south_wales or contact Tom Clarke on 01656 648426.



The Mayor declares the Emmaus shop open, with Tom Clarke (left) and John Noble (Emmaus chairman). (Photograph by Paul Fears Photography).

The Monday Club celebrates its 37th annual dinner!

Diners at the Monday Club dinner. Picture by STEPHEN WARFIELD.

THE Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club recently celebrated its 37th annual dinner in the Bear Hotel.

Some 55 people, including members, parents, friends, carers, volunteers and special guests were present including the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp; Mr and Mrs John Andrew (representing Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions); Dr Peter and Mrs Moug (Rotary Club of Cowbridge); Mike Thomas (Emerald Lodge), and Rev Heather Weddel, United Free Church.

The very efficient chairperson for the evening was Tom Farrington (ably assisted by John Andrew) and sincere thanks were expressed to the various organisations who had assisted the club financially over the past year.

They included the Vale Council, Emerald Lodge No 5907, Cowbridge Rotary Club, Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions and Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council.

The club was also presented with cheques from Cowbridge Rotary Club and Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions.

After a most enjoyable meal, the happy evening concluded with musical entertainment led by The Thingamijigs, and everyone present joined in the singing, helped out by members of the club. Thanks to the financial support given by the various local organisations, members are able to enjoy a varied and interesting programme, normally every second Monday of the month (usually in the United Free Church Hall).

Several interesting visits are planned for this summer, including a mystery coach trip in June and the club will have a stall at the May Fayre, organised by the Lions on Spring Bank Holiday Monday on the Bear Field, Cowbridge.

Anyone over the age of 16 (with learning disabilities) is very welcome to join. For further information, contact Betty Alden (president) on 01446 773373 or Ann Roach, secretary on 01446 781309. **AR**

Getting to grips with card fraud

THE Bont Faen WI welcomed a large turnout of members and friends to the recent meeting, where DC Tyrone Peach and DC Ian Roche of the Economic Crime Unit talked on card and other fraud awareness.

Fake cash point fronts and camera strips were examined by members and it was explained how bluetooth technology now allows a criminal to sit in the car close by and use your card information almost immediately.

Tyrone and Ian went on to talk about scam phone calls, letters and rogue building services which still results in people parting with large amounts of money. A strong message was given to keep alert, it can really happen to anyone.

Our March social meeting was at the Cross Inn, where a game of darts was followed by an excellent meal.

Next month, we have a meeting to prepare for our lucky dip stand at the Rotary/Lions May Fair.

Some of the members recently enjoyed a Taste of Wales day at Llanharry, attended the Glamorgan Federations WI Centenary thanksgiving service, and are going on the Federation guided walk around Bristol.

Next meeting is on April 16, at 8pm in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge. **DS**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is ***NANCY DAVIDGE***
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Happy 80th!

AT the Young At Heart Club meeting held last week, there was a surprise in store for one member who was celebrating her 80th birthday.

Gloria Harry enjoyed a lovely birthday cake which was shared with all her friends, and was presented with a beautiful bouquet by club committee member Jean Thomas.

Easter service

THIS year's Easter Day service at St Mary Hill Church will take place on Sunday, April 5 at 6.30am and following the service, breakfast will be served. Everyone will receive a warm welcome.

Pampering!

IF the ladies of the area would like a little bit of pampering, then this is for you!

Today (March 26) a beauty demonstration is taking place in the Treoes village hall. There will be facial and eyebrow waxing, nail bar, manicure and pedicure, Indian head massage and reflexology.

To add to the entertainment there will be the popular raffle and tombola with interesting prizes.

For further informatio, call 07840 224076.

Poor showing

THE Sunday service at Saron Chapel, Treoes was poorly attended. I think perhaps that although the sun was shining, it was quite cold in the chapel.

Of course, it was a disappointment to the official minister, Rev Bill Johnson.

School takes up WWF's Earth Hour challenge

TO celebrate 2015's Earth Hour, WWF-UK is asking schools to focus on the things they love that may be affected by climate change.

They are challenging young people across the UK to create'For the love of…' bunting to send a powerful message to decision makers ahead of the next big climate change summit.

In the lead-up to Earth Hour 2015, Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, Cowbridge, will take part in special Earth Hour themed activities.

These include assemblies, discussions and creating bunting and pupils will join with other schools to create a nationwide piece – hoping to help towards breaking the longest bunting world record!

On Saturday (March 28) at 8.30pm, millions of people and global iconic landmarks such as Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, New York's Times Square and the Sydney Harbour Bridge will switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet. Earth Hour 2014 saw a record-breaking 162 countries join the world's biggest celebration under the stars.

Sarah Tudur, the Eco co-ordinator at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, said: "We are proud to take part in WWF's Earth Hour once again and our students are excited to be involved with such a great and inspiring event.

"Everyone can make a difference in protecting our planet and young people have a key role to play.

"Of course, there is a serious message here, but our pupils will also have lots of fun as they help WWF raise awareness of the issues our planet is facing."

Cherry Duggan, head of schools and youth at WWF-UK, said: "It's great to see so many young people celebrating Earth Hour. We're delighted that Ysgol Iolo Morganwg is taking part and hope that they'll inspire many other schools.

For more information, visit www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour.

Eclipse brings out the town!

PHOTOGRAPHER Mike Wilcock was out and about in Cowbridge High Street on Friday, March 26, the day of the eclipse.

Chris Samuel (*see letter on page 2*) let people view the eclipse through his welding mask.

As you can see, the girls from Maroons Hairdressers were very impressed by their view of the event!

Casting an image of the eclipse via a pinhole in a piece of cardboard.

Images by **MIKE WILCOCK**

Shock as figures show that Llantwit is black spot for ambulance response times

THE town of Llantwit Major is one of the blackest spots in the Vale for ambulance response times – according to figures issued by the Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust itself, *writes PHILIP IRWIN*.

The figures were released by the trust in response to a query by Vale AM Jane Hutt, who in turn had been asked for the information by a constituent.

That constituent was concerned about response times in Llantwit now that the ambulance station had closed.

The details revealed by the trust show that rural areas such as Llantwit are suffering in comparison to urban areas such as Barry and Penarth.

The established Welsh Government target for category A incidents is that 65 per cent of cases should be reached within eight minutes, but the response times given for Llantwit over a six-month timescale (July 2014 to December 2014) do not, in the trust's own words "make for happy reading".

The worst month was July 2014, when only 6.4 per cent of calls were reached within that eight minutes. There were 47 calls, so it means that only three were there within the eight minutes.

The following month, August, was better, at 15.8 per cent. Of the 57 cases, this means that nine responses were within target.

September was similar, at 15.0 per cent, 40 calls, six on target, and in October the eight-minute target was reached in only 12.5 per cent (48 calls, six reached in time).

The situation deteriorated again in November and December. In November, there were 64 call outs, with only 7.8 per cent (five) reached within eight minutes.

December was very similar, with 54 call outs, but only 7.4 per cent (four) reached in time.

In a letter accompanying the statistics, Tracy Myhill, the interim chief executive of the ambulance trust, says that it is "important to see the Ambulance Service as part of the wider unscheduled care system", and that all parts of that system need to work effectively together.

This, presumably, is a reference to the difficulties paramedics often have in delivering patients to A & E, which leads to ambulances queueing while a space is found for the patient.

She also says that in January 2015, the response rate in the Vale as a whole was 43.8 per cent, against the A8 target of 65. At the time of writing, figures were not available for Llantwit.

In a letter commenting on the situation, Vaughan Gething, the Deputy Minister for Health, describes the figures for the Vale as "disappointing". He also notes that there was an improvement in January 2015 and goes on to point to extra pressures on the ambulance service.

He said that the ambulance service had experienced unprecedented levels of demand for the most life-threatening of calls, culminating in a 24 per cent rise in January, compared to the previous year. These cases take up resources and time as the ambulance service "seeks to stabilise people who are in imminent danger of death".

He says that the Welsh Government has provided £7.5 million for extra staff, and £4 million for new vehicles.

He concludes by saying that Health Minister Mark Drakeford expects to see rapid improvements, and that health boards must also take responsibility and reduce patient handover delays which impinge on response times.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "I have raised this issue with the Ambulance Service on behalf of residents in the Western Vale, and am very disappointed with these figures; they simply aren't good enough.

"However, there is a strong commitment to improving the performance and resilience of the service and encouragingly, performance figures in the Vale for January 2015 were better than in December 2014, and improved again in February.

"Improving the performance of the Welsh Ambulance Service is a priority for the Welsh Government – it has invested £4million in new vehicles and provided £7.5million for additional staff to help ease the pressures on health boards and the WAST.

"The Deputy Health Minister has said that he expects ongoing attention on ambulance responsiveness and for performance to continue to improve across Wales."

Tracy Myhill told The GEM: "Some of the recent improvement initiatives, such as the agreed handover guidance with our colleagues across NHS Wales, we know will take time to take full effect but we're hopeful that these will start to bear fruit in the coming months.

"In the medium term, we have invested in 17 additional emergency vehicles, which will be out on the roads this summer.

"We're also in the midst of a campaign to recruit dozens of paramedics and urgent care assistants into our workforce."

She confirmed that eight-minute response times for the Vale as a whole had improved in February to 63.9 per cent.

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'We should honour our saints'

WHY are the developers changing the name of the new David Wilson homes in Llangan from St Canna's Green to Timbers Green?

Clearly, they haven't considered the historical significance of the name of a family related to King Arthur, dating back to pre-Christian years of the 6th century, as active Christian missionaries, each founding their own church.

Nearby Fynnon Ganna, Canna's Holy Well, was a site for pilgrimage over many centuries after the death of the Breton princess who had become a nun.

Her name is of such significance it also appears as part of two Cardiff suburbs: Canton (English translation of the Welsh Treganna, 'Saint Canna's Town'); and Pontcanna (Welsh for 'Canna's Bridge'). Canna's Feast day is celebrated on October 25.

Surely we should honour our saints?

Melinda Mulcahy-Dobbs, Cowbridge.

GROUP'S LIVESTOCK MARKET HOPES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

In the aftermath of that, the Vale market Action Group (VMAG) put forward plans to keep the market, and to investigate the possibility of building a market hall alongside it, which would be home to farm shops and other suitable businesses.

This week (Monday) the Vale Council cabinet met and decided to continue to support the VMAG's work to redevelop the market, after the cabinet gave its approval to initial plans. A number of funding hurdles have to be cleared, but the proposal submitted includes a scaled down market to allow space for a new market hall, housing a number of small shops, a community café and covered open space that would sit alongside an older persons' residential development. Provision would also be made for public car parking.

At the meeting, the Vale Council's cabinet agreed that the initial plan has the potential to be developed into a deliverable proposal, and so VMAG have been given a further 12 months to refine their plan and begin to raise the required funds for the scheme.

While a viable proposal is being developed, the council will begin work on marketing the sections of the site proposed for older people's accommodation and car parking, and ensuring the necessary local infrastructure is in place.

Coun Lis Burnett, the cabinet member for regeneration, commented: "This is a huge leap forward for Cowbridge, not only in the redevelopment of the cattle market but also in the role of the local community in driving it forward and in influencing the future direction of their town.

"Local people told us that they did not want to lose their market and that there was an opportunity to develop something for the benefit of the whole town. We listened and offered guidance and they have worked hard to come up with a proposal that appears to have great potential.

"I'm delighted that the council has been able to work with such a proactive group. The group now has a year to refine their plan and if that is a success we will be inviting bids to deliver the remainder of the *proposal*."

Curtain up at CADS

THE Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) is welcoming in the warmer weather with Round and Round the Garden, in The Market Theatre, Cowbridge between March 25 – 28.

It forms part of The Norman Conquests trilogy, by Alan Ayckbourn. It follows the events in the garden over a hilarious weekend, and is centred around the attempts of Norman, an assistant librarian, to involve himself with his sisters-in-law and his wife during a summer weekend at the home of the matriarch, somewhere in the home counties.

Tickets available on the door, from WG Davies Newsagents on Cowbridge High Street, or by emailing peggy@dog5.freeserve.co.uk to reserve seats. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm curtain.

'Lasting memorial to a child is so important'

Young couple help others after their devastating loss

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

ABOVE: Sinead and Andrew (centre) and their family, hand over the cheque to Paul Adamson (on left) of The Jam Fund.

LOSING a child is the most devastating event a parent can face – but one grief-stricken young couple in Barry have been able to help those in a similar plight.

Paul Adamson, of The Jam Fund, discovered through his partner Denise that Sinead Lewis and Andrew Townsend had lost their baby Annabelle at just one day old, and needed help to provide a fitting memorial stone.

Paul told The GEM: "As a parent who has lost two children, I understand how important it is to have a lasting memorial to a child.

"Memorial stones can be very expensive and the charity was pleased to donate funds for the purchase of a fitting headstone for Annabelle."

In fact, when Paul got in touch with Sinead and Andrew, he realised his son Sam had played football with Andrew at the age of 15.

Sinead, Andrew and their family wanted to thank The Jam Fund for its help.

The charity was founded in memory of Paul's son Jamie, and has raised £400,000 over 10 years, helping hundreds of young people suffering from serious illnesses and supporting their families at their hour of greatest need. Paul said: "Sinead, Andrew and their family organised a quiz night and raffle at Sully Sports and Social Club on Saturday, March 14.

"The event raised £2,100 – as I pointed out, effectively covering the cost of the original headstone.

"But since then, I've been contacted by two further local families who have sadly experienced similar, tragic events in losing babies.

"Both families had raised approximately half of the amount necessary for a memorial, so thanks to Sinead, Andrew and their family, the Jam Fund has donated the other half.

"In this way, the family directly assisted the other two families, which I feel is very fitting. I think it is great that this young couple felt strong enough to help.

"I would also like to thank the management and staff of Sully Sports and Social Club for their kind support and to everyone who supported the evening.

"I also want to thank everyone in Barry and across the Vale for continuing to help The Jam Fund, including businesses who host a collecting box."

Andrew and Sinead want to thank Sully Sports and Social Club, Atlantic Way Cross Fit, Rhoose and District Social Club, local businesses and individuals who generously provided raffle prizes towards the fundraising evening, and everyone who attended it and made contributions.

For more on The Jam Fund go to: www.jamfund.co.uk/ or you can email: jamfund@sky.com.

Diamond celebration for Cowbridge couple

FLASHBACK: Roy and Sylvia cutting their wedding cake on March 26, 1955 – one tier of the cake was actually made of cardboard because rationing was still in force!

ABOVE: The immediate family, with Roy and Sylvia during a special day out on the Northern Belle, sister train to the Orient Express, during its visit to Portmeirion in 2013. Pictured (left to right) Roy Denning, Margaret Westhead (daughter), John Westhead (son in law), Owain (grandson) and Sylvia Denning.

LOCAL residents Roy and Sylvia Denning celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary today (March 26).

Roy is a well known local historian, author and former librarian at the Polytechnic of Wales in Treforest while Sylvia was a volunteer at the Cowbridge branch of Oxfam for over 15 years.

The couple previously lived in Llantwit Major and brought up their two children Margaret and Chris in Beddau near Pontypridd.

Both from Cardiff, Roy met Sylvia at the city's Operatic Society in the early 1950s.

The couple will be celebrating their diamond anniversary with their children, grandchildren Helen and Owain and other family and friends at The Bear in Cowbridge.

BONVILSTON EVENT IS OFF

ST MARY'S Church, Bonvilston, regrets that the Tenebrae event planned for Monday, March 30, has had to be cancelled due to illness.

It is hoped to hold the event next year.

LAMBS celebrate St Patrick

(three days late!)

ST PATRICK'S Day arrived three days late in Llansannor Community Hall as 40 local residents gathered on Friday, March 20 for a celebratory evening.

As the LAMBS Chair observed in welcoming guests, the alternative date turned out to be auspicious in its own right as it coincided with an 'International Day of Happiness' and – for good measure – a solar eclipse!

Guests received a welcoming drink of black velvet, Guinness or Irish cider, and settled down with canapes for an evening of superb musical entertainment provided by Tobin's Favourite, a five-piece band under the leadership of Denis O'Rourke.

Two one-hour sessions of Irish music were separated by a delicious meal of steak and Guinness pie and colcannon, Bailey's cheesecake or apple pie with Irish Mist, followed by Irish coffee.

All the food was prepared by members of LAMBS. On behalf of LAMBS, the chair applauded the band for their huge contribution to an immensely enjoyable evening, and thanked all the local people who had helped to make the event possible.

MB

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PUPILS CREATE STUNNING MOSAIC OF CHURCH YEAR

Left to right: Archdeacon Philip Morris, Duncan Mottram (head), pupils Anna Roberts, Andre Joseph, Elin May and Bishop David.

A STRIKING new mosaic depicting the church year has been created by pupils at a local school.

Each of the 200 pupils at St Brides Major Church in Wales Primary School had a hand in helping to create the stunning 20ft by 14ft artwork which was made from broken tiles.

The mosaic was made in conjunction with artist-in-residence Kate Derbyshire from St Nicholas, who spent a month working with pupils at the school.

It was officially unveiled and blessed by the Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne during a service at the school this week. A new altar donated by nearby Ewenny Priory Church, replicating the church's own altar, was also unveiled at the service. Headteacher Duncan Mottram said: "We were taking down some old drapes while redecorating work was carried out in the hall when we decided it would be nice to have a more fitting backdrop to worship in the hall.

"We wanted something that would follow the church year and we wanted something that was more modern than the drapes that had hung there previously.

"We are delighted with the finished result which every single child in the school played a part in creating. The children are very proud of it – it has really captured their imagination.

"Their faces when they came into school after half term and saw it finished were full of awe and wonder."

The mosaic illustrates the various stages of the church calendar of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. Each sphere is framed in the matching liturgical colour.

Bishop David, who blessed the mosaic and the new altar said: "The mosaic is absolutely brilliant, using the talent of every child in the school, along with Kate Derbyshire, the resident artist, who produced an arresting take on the chief parts of the Church's year, coinciding with the major events in Jesus's life."

Parish priest and Archdeacon of Margam, the Venerable Philip Morris, commented: "It's fantastic and is very visible from outside, particularly when the sun is shining, as it is reflected outside as a symbol in the community."

A local business celebrates its 10th anniversary

A LOCAL business that started life in Cowbridge, is celebrating 10 years of growth in the Vale.

The Barefoot Studio, which began in Cowbridge High Street, has grown into a hub for health lifestyles, specialising in pilates and Nordic Walking.

Last year, it expanded by moving to a 5,000 square foot purpose-built space at the Vale Business Park in Llandow.

Business owners Karen Ingram and Paula Wooding have been celebrating with customers and friends. Vale MP Alan Cairns joined them to cut a birthday cake.

Karen Ingram said: "We are so proud of Barefoot Studio and the community 'feel' we've created.

"Paula and I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last 10 years. We never imagined we'd come such a long way. It's our customers who have made the journey a real joy."

Business owners Paula Wooding and Karen Ingram celebrate the 10th anniversary of Barefoot Studio.

Today, Barefoot Studio is considered a centre of excellence for pilates and Nordic Walking instructor training.

Once run by Karen and Paula, the studio now has five teaching staff and works with a range of complementary therapists.

The Barefoot shop sources lifestyle products from all over Europe for women to work out in.

Adds Karen: "We are the home of British Nordic Walking and the only UK distributor of Excel Nordic Walking poles."

Karen, who previously worked in policy for the public and voluntary sector for 10 years, was inspired to set up Barefoot Studio after suffering a back injury in her mid-20s.

She said: "I tried everything, and then I came across pilates.

"It changed my life completely and I ended up pain free. I went off to London to become a pilates instructor and started finding out more. That's when I came up with the vision to bring it all under one roof.

"Paula and I set up Barefoot Studio with the aim of creating a space where people could have a sense of ownership.

"Lots of our clients say they feel like it's their second home and we hope to continue that."

Upgrade for Llanfair Primary School

Coun Chris Elmore with staff and pupils at Llanfair Primary School.

STAFF and pupils at Llanfair Primary School welcomed a visit from cabinet member for schools Coun Chris Elmore on March 20, to mark the start of major work to improve the school's facilities.

The turf-cutting ceremony preceded the construction of a new combined foundation phase building to replace the current temporary demountable units.

Three new modular classrooms will be built to house all of the foundation phase classes, enabling them free-flow access between classrooms, shared outside learning areas, and gardens, and will also house a PPA room where teachers will be able to plan and prepare their lessons.

Work will also begin on installing a much-needed new roof for the main building, as well as converting the current Year-2 classroom into a meeting room and learning area.

Coun Elmore said: "This work will be an amazing boost for Llanfair. The pupils will benefit hugely from their brand new classrooms, and staff will get a welcome reprieve in having a dedicated planning room where they can focus on making sure the children get the best school experience possible."

The improvements are fully funded by the Vale Council.

St Donat's choir in final

Following a night of tough competition at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Saturday, Côr Heol y March have progressed to the final of Côr Cymru 2015, after winning the children's choirs category.

The competition is held every two years to find the best choir in Wales. There are 20 choirs taking part this which are divided into five categories: male voice choirs, women's choirs, mixed choirs, youth choirs and children's choirs.

The choir which is led by Eleri Roberts and rehearses in St Donats, faced three other choirs. They were Côr Cytgan Clwyd, Glanaethwy Junior Choir (North West Wales) and Anglesey Youth Choir.

They performed five pieces in front of a panel of international judges as well as performer Caryl Parry-Jones and soprano Elin Manahan Tomos.

They will now progress directly to the Côr Cymru final held in Aberystwyth on the weekend of April 18-19 where they will face the winners of the other category.

Since launching the competition in 2003, four choirs have been crowned champions and it's now one of the highlights in the Welsh competitive singing calendar.

S4C's commissioner for entertainment programmes said: "The competition has earned its place as one of Wales' main choral competitions and is proof of the talent, enthusiasm and energy we have in our choirs – whatever their age."

Also, for the first time, primary school choirs will compete in a special one-off programme, Côr Cymru Cynradd.

You can watch their performance again on S4C's Clic catch-up service available www.s4c.cymru/clic.

'Ty Hafan is a celebration of life'

THE monthly meeting of the St Hilary WI was held on March 10, in the Village Hall, when final arrangements were made for this Institute's 83rd birthday lunch at The Six Bells Inn in Penmark.

Members showed an interest in the WI Margam garden party in July and were reminded of the Pendoylan Link Meeting on June 17.

After business was concluded, president Betty Thomas introduced the speaker, Mr Lindsay Doyle, who is a volunteer ambassador for Ty Hafan, the Children's Hospice in Wales.

He explained that Ty Hafan leaves a lasting impression of a happy place, where there is a celebration of life, however limited it is. They are not able to cure there, but life is made more comfortable for children and families for as long as help is needed.

Ty Hafan needs £3.5 million per year and survives almost completely on donations as it gets less than 5 per cent from Government.

Most of the care provided by Ty Hafan is out in the community, only becoming residential for respite or end of life. There is a memorial garden which consists of pebbles from the beach engraved with the child's name and placed in water. The pebbles then erode with time, which helps to ease the pain of loss. Although this was a serious and rather harrowing subject to listen to, members felt uplifted by the happiness that such care can bring to whole families in such difficult times. Mr Doyle was thanked for his sensitive talk and the evening ended with refreshments provided by Jenny Hughes and Olive Lewis.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14 at 7pm. The speaker will be Mrs Marjorie Page with a talk about Clarice Cliff.

SD

Sun shines on the Lions' book sale

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions enjoyed a fine spring day for their second-hand book sale outside Caffe Nero in the Cowbridge Waitrose car park last Saturday, March 21.

The book sale also benefited from the good location with a steady flow of customers. Over £200 was raised for the good causes supported by Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions.

As well as fundraising, the book sale was also an opportunity to remind everyone of the Cowbridge May Fair, which is being held on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4 on the Bear Field from 10am to 5pm.

The sunny weather was a reminder of the wonderful 2013 May Fair.

As in 2013, the fair will be free entry and will be a great family day out.

For those interested in having a stall on the day, both outdoor and indoor pitches are still available.

Contact 0845 833 6763 or e-mail info@lmandclions.org.uk or visit www.lmandclions.org.uk.

MAN WILL BE DEPORTED AT END OF SENTENCE

Bulgarian's massive £400k cannabis farm in a Barry property

CANNABIS with a potential street value of up to £412,000 was found being grown in a three-storey house in Barry.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that a Bulgarian national was looking after 397 plants, which were being grown in every room of the house.

Yanko Yankulov (45) described as a "gardener", admitted producing cannabis and was jailed for 14 months.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on January 12, the police went to the three-storey house in Gladstone Road and discovered that the entire property had been converted for the production of cannabis on three levels. Yankulov was living in the property.

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

There was sophisticated lighting and ventilation and an electricity meter had been bypassed.

"It was a very large scale operation," said Mr Pugh.

He said the potential yield would be worth £171,000 wholesale, but the street value would be up to £412,000.

Yankulov, he said, had been the only person at the property.

He said he was a Bulgarian national who travelled from Sofia to Manchester, where he met a friend and went to the address in Barry, after being given £100 to tend the plants. His counsel, Jeremy Jenkins, said: "It's accepted he played a lesser role. He was actually employed as a gardener for the operation. He's always been extremely candid. "

Recorder Greg Bull QC said: "I accept that your part was a lesser one, looking after the plants, but these premises had been turned into a cannabis factory.

"Had the operation not been stopped in its tracks, it would have gone on and on. It bordered on being a commercial operation, and only a prison sentence could be justified for such serious criminal activity."

He ordered that all the plants and equipment be destroyed, and ordered that Yankulov be deported at the end of his sentence.

Cowbridge store is the 'best in Wales' NATIONAL ACCOLADE

A LOCAL 'lifestyle store' in Cowbridge recently received a national accolade, praising the way its owners had taken it in "a new direction".

Ushi's of Cowbridge was a winner at the Pure London 'Best of British' Independent Retail Awards recently, picking up the award for best independent retailer in Wales.

The company, which specialises in women's fashion, accessories and gifts, operates two branches in Cowbridge and Cardiff and is owned and run by local entrepreneurs, Steve and Lynne Beresford.

Lynne said: "The business has been trading for 30 years and it has taken a new direction in the last five years, with more of an emphasis on fashion.

"There's been a real energy and buzz about the two shops and this award underlines all we've achieved. It was an absolute delight to be nominated, but to walk away with a big prize really is fantastic news and we're both delighted.

"It's a feather in the cap for us and for our fantastic staff, who have worked so hard."

Pure London is a national trade show and the Best of British Independent Retail Awards have been created to celebrate the contributions of UK independent stores to the fashion and footwear retail industry.

ABOVE: Lynne Beresford (left) with the trophy, and Susan Haines, the visual merchandiser at Ushi.

Julie Driscoll, the portfolio director for Pure London at i2i Events Group, said: "Nearly 80 per cent of our audience at Pure London are independent retailers and boutiques, so we are thrilled to have launched these awards to celebrate their successes".

Ushi's lifestyle stores offer a unique mix of women's fashion, gifts and homeware.

Lynne explained: "I think what caught the eye of the judges was that we really do offer a diverse selection of quality products – we've even heard it said that we stock everything a woman wants but not necessarily anything that she particularly needs.

"So we will stock candles and scarves alongside shoes and handbags.

"Ultimately, we know that everyone wants to look and feel fantastic in the clothes they wear. Our collections are carefully chosen to offer something different, and our customers identify with the ranges we stock by designers such as Elisa Cavaletti, Isabel de Pedro, Lauren Vidal and Out of Xile."

'£109,000 parking fines are bad for a town 's image' – SAYS COUNCILLOR

VETERAN Vale councillor Anthony Ernest has hit out at a shock report showing parking fines amounting to more than £109,000 have been imposed on shoppers in the town centre, since the arrival of parking enforcement officers.

The former Penarth Mayor and past chairman of the Vale Council, told The GEM that the level of fines handed down to many unsuspecting motorists in central Penarth was "quite astounding", and showed that previous promises to give 'guidance' to those who might have inadvertently parked in error, rather than slapping a ticket on windscreens, had clearly not been carried out.

He reported: "I had a number of constituents complain to me about receiving a fine for parking outside the Co-Operative and Sainsbury's supermarkets, in the bays that are partly for unloading and partly for limited waiting at different times of the day. They were unaware of the different restrictions on the very short length of road outside the shops.

"Following these complaints, I asked the Vale Council, which is responsible for the traffic officers, firstly how many tickets had been issued.

"The reply was '710', a few of which may have been cancelled. This figure included the bay outside the Nationwide Building Society, which is similarly restricted like the other two bays.

"In response to my question about how much 'advice' had been offered, no figures were available, but according to the Vale Council, officers are 'fair and consistent'. I then asked on what traffic-related issues the fines had been spent, in accordance with the regulations, and the answer was that the scheme had made a loss and that nothing had been spent on improving traffic conditions.

"Finally, in reply to a further question about the difficulties being experienced by motorists who are caught by this non-standard form of parking regulation – where for part of the day they are unloading bays and the rest of the day available for anybody to park – the council said that it is 'reviewing the signs to establish if there is any way in which they can be altered or made clearer'."

Coun Ernest said the image of a town centre beset by unfair parking restrictions was having a bad effect on people coming to shop in Penarth, and those who had spoken to him were "absolutely furious" about the misleading restrictions. They said they would not use the town centre shops again, but rather go to the out of town supermarkets.

He went on: "I shall continue to press the Vale Council to urgently review the signage and greatly improve their efforts to educate rather than penalise innocent motorists who come into Penarth to spend money in local businesses. Regrettably, with the failure of the Business Improvement District project, no one organisation exists to seek change to improve the business climate in our town," he concluded.

Married at St Helen's Church on April 4, 1955...

Jean and Peter now in Diamond celebration!

ABOVE: Just married – Jean and Peter celebrating after getting wed at St Helen's Church, Barry, in 1955; and below, Jean and Peter still smiling in 2015!

JEAN and Peter Venners will be celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary surrounded by family and friends at The Casa Paco restaurant on Good Friday (April 3)

The Barry couple met in 1954 at the Savoy Dance Hall in Barry and married a year later on April 4, 1955.

The wedding ceremony took place at St Helen's Church in Barry.

Peter worked at Distillers (which later became BP) and Jean worked at John Bailey until the couple's first son Stephen was born in February 1956.

Their second son Jonathan arrived in May 1961.

Peter retired in 1982 from BP and they both did an 'around the world trip'. They have also travelled to Australia to visit Peter's brother and his family who emigrated some years ago.

They have both enjoyed travelling with friends and have always had a very active social life.

They are members of the BP club and often go on holidays with the club – they are off to Ireland this May.

Jean and Peter have two grand-daughters Jodie and Jade, and have always been loving supportive grand-parents, involved in caring for the girls when they were young and their parents were working.

A family member told The GEM: "They are a lovely couple and very much loved by their family."

Llandow boy wins card recycling competition

A LLANDOW schoolboy was top of the form when it came to recycling Christmas cards this year.

Robbie Hawkins (now aged 12) won by collecting 8,367 cards during January from the residents of Llandow, Colwinston and Brocastle Manor care home, among others. He thanks all those who helped him by allowing him to recycle their cards.

First prize, £60 Argos gift card: Robbie Hawkins, from St David's C/W Primary, Colwinston with 8,367 cards.

Second prize, £40 Argos gift card: Celyn Jauncey, from St Illtyd Primary, with 6,443 cards.

Third prize, £20 Argos gift card: Charley Angove, from Romilly Primary, with 3,695 cards.

WINNING SCHOOLS

The number of cards collected by the school is divided by the number of pupils at the school, so that all schools, irrespective of their size, have an equal chance to win.

First prize, £60 Argos gift card: Ysgol Erw'r Delyn with 726 cards collected per pupil (total collected by the school = 31,976).

Second prize, £40 Argos gift card: Eagleswell Primary with 168 cards collected per pupil (total collected by the school = 35,328).

Third prize, £20 Argos gift card: Murch Junior with 123 cards collected per pupil (total collected by the school = 24,901).

Vale choir presents charity concert in capital city

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PHOTOGRAPHS by
IAN DIXON

VALE choir Caritas offered a musical tour of Europe at a highly successful concert in St Andrew and St Teilo's Church, Cathays, Cardiff recenlty.

The large audience enjoyed a varied programme that included choral works by European composers JS Bach, Franck, Lotti, Bruckner and others.

Choir director Lindsay Gray was delighted that the concert raised in excess of £1,000to support the work of the Huggard Centre for the homeless, a Cardiff-based charity providing hostel and day centre facilities.

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Volunteers celebrate, then look ahead

LAST week, volunteers from Valeways, the charity dedicated to pathway clearance and walking in the Vale of Glamorgan, celebrated a year of working and walking with a lunch at the Cwm Ciddy, Barry.

The social break was enjoyed by all volunteers who include groups from the local 'Scope' organisation and from Atlantic College, St. Donats, as well as regular walk leaders. All of them have been out in all weathers throughout the year, working to keep public pathways in the Vale clear, as well as running a programme of led walks available to all.

As well as this continuing programme the volunteers will now focus attention on the Vale Walking Festival which, organised by Valeways, is now in its sixth year. The festival will run from May 21-24 offering four days of led walks, making the most of our glorious coast and countryside in the Vale.

With assistance from a wide variety of people and organisations; the Ramblers, Amgueddfa Cymru, Creative Rural Communities are just three examples, the Festival offers an unrivalled opportunity to enjoy the rich environment on our doorstep. All walks in the programme are free.

This year, there is a new link with the Vale of Glamorgan Festival renowned for its annual programme of new music. Three walks will link in with the time and location of concerts.

Information on the Walking Festival and about Valeways in general can be found the website www.valeways.org.uk or by phoning 01446 749000.

PG

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Suspended sentence for Vale man after police find drugs

CARDIFF CROWN COURT REPORT
by AJ SICLUNA

AN Ogmore-by-Sea man has been sentenced to a year's imprisonment, suspended for two years, for possessing mephedrone worth £320 with intent to supply.

Lewis Jones (24) of Main Road, admitted the charge.

Prosecutor Jason Howells said the drug was found after police searched a house in Wheate Close, Rhoose.

It was in a black bag and consisted of 18 "deals" in silver foil wraps.

Jones told officers: "That's all I've got. They are all mine."

Officers also found a set of digital scales.

The court heard that Jones had two previous convictions for possessing cannabis and at the time, said Mr Howells, was on licence involving a 20-month sentence for wounding and possessing offensive weapons. His solicitor, John Lewis, said: "For some time, he was using Class B drugs socially with friends."

Since October, he said, he had stopped taking drugs, had moved from the Barry area, and was now settled with his partner.

Judge Patrick Curran told him: "You had bought mephedrone for a group of friends. You purchased an amount every two weeks and it's accepted it was not done for profit. You have ceased associating with those individuals, and you have ceased taking drugs."

He was also made subject to a supervision order for two years and ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

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COLLECTION DATES THIS EASTER

Please note the following changes to the collection days for your waste and recycling this Easter.

Normal Collection Day:	Will now be:
Friday 3rd April	Saturday 4th April
Monday 6th April	Tuesday 7th April
Tuesday 7th April	Wednesday 8th April
Wednesday 8th April	Thursday 9th April
Thursday 9th April	Friday 10th April
Friday 10th April	Saturday 11th April

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The Waste and Recycling e-calendars on the council website have been ammended to reflect these new collection dates

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

Stagecoach students wow audience in the West End

ON Sunday, March 22 students from Stagecoach Theatre Arts School in Bridgend and Cowbridge gave a show-stopping performance based on the musical *Ghost* at her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End.

Students from 17 Stagecoach schools around the country took to the stage, treating the audience to a range of theatrical and musical pieces. The programme included numbers from the soulful musical, *Blues Brothers* and classic hits from the enchanting show, *Wicked*.

Stagecoach Principal, Helene Reynolds said: "I am delighted that pupils from my schools had the opportunity to perform at this iconic venue. Everyone has had a brilliant time rehearsing for the production and it was great to see them on stage.

"Performances like this showcase the hard work of our students, providing them with memorable experiences and life skills which they can use throughout their careers."

Bridgend and Cowbridge Stagecoach School is part of a network of more than 600 part-time theatre arts schools worldwide. Early stages classes are available for children aged 4 to 6 and main stages classes take place for 6 to 18 year olds.

See the website www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend or call 01446 772727.

'Cable car to Penarth plan is an exciting prospect' – *Tory AM*

PLANS for a cable car linking Cardiff Bay, the city centre and Penarth have been welcomed by South Wales Central regional AM, Andrew RT Davies.

The link could see as many as 2,500 passengers carried each hour, but could cost as much as £100m to build.

"According to reports, the project would be financed by a combination of private and public money," the Conservative AM said.

"While there is a long, long way to go before these plans become reality, you can't help but be excited by the prospect. Not only would a cable car attract tourists to the region, it could also attract public funding from a number of sources if it can be proven that it would be a viable public transport option.

"The Chancellor's announcement of a potential Cardiff city deal could bring exciting projects like this closer to reality, and whilst an element of private money would be required the UK government is making transformational ideas like this a possibility," Mr Davies added.

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'The Green Party is attracting support' – CANDIDATE CLAIMS

THE Green Party candidate for the Vale at the forthcoming general election, Alan Armstrong, (*second from left*) is pictured right, canvassing in Llantwit Major on Saturday (March 21).

Supported by party members, he handed out leaflets and discussed its policies with local residents.

"The Green Party's vision of an anti-austerity, fairer, and sustainable society is attracting a lot of voters," he said.

"People are unhappy at the grey similarity between the major parties.

"There is a desire for change and the Green Party offers voters the chance to change. There is a growing awareness, too, of the need to urgently address the issue of climate change. Only the Green Party is giving this issue the priority it demands," he claimed.

Rainbow Group joined by Vale AM – for Yoga!

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM is pictured (front, second right) with members of the Rainbow Group at the Pioneer Hall.

ON March 20, the Vale AM, Jane Hutt joined the Women's Rainbow Group for their yoga session at Pioneer Hall, Barry.

The group aims to encourage women from the local ethnic community to meet and become more active, avoiding isolation and bringing communities together.

Ms Hutt said: "I have supported the Rainbow Group since it started its first women-only swimming sessions in Barry almost five years ago. Physical activities such as swimming, yoga and Zumba not only offer obvious health benefits for members, but also help women to integrate and become active in the community."

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Lobby group says ovarian screening needed in Wales

by GEM REPORTER

A former palliative care nurse says there needs to be a screening programme in Wales for ovarian cancer.

The nurse, who cared for dozens of people across the Vale and Cardiff and wishes to remain anonymous, said the provision of tests was overdue.

She told The GEM: "There is screening for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon cancer and it has saved lives. At present there is no screening for ovarian cancer.

"A total of 7,000 women throughout the United Kingdom are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year – in Wales 387 are diagnosed, and around 233 lose their lives.

"Sometimes it is because the diagnosis comes too late. The symptoms are persistent bloating, abdominal pain and needing to wee more urgently."

The good news is that a simple test can identify whether a woman has ovarian cancer.

The former nurse said: "A 'CA125 blood test' is a 'tumour marker' and provides a strong indication. A GP can then refer a woman to a gynaecologist who will do a vaginal scan."

The nurse has two former colleagues who have developed ovarian cancer.

"A group of women is preparing to lobby the Welsh Government about a screening programme. A simple blood test can save lives. We would like to see screening starting at the age of 50."

The issue of ovarian cancer hit the headlines this week after it was revealed that film actress and director Angelina Jolie had chosen to have her ovaries removed. Her mother Marcheline Bertrand died in 2007 after a battle with ovarian cancer.

For more information, go to *www.targetovariancancer.org.uk*.

Join 'Big Lunch' for friendship, food and fun!

COMMUNITIES in Bridgend are being invited to join in the UK's biggest annual get together for neighbours, as registrations open for The Big Lunch 2015.

The Big Lunch, now in its seventh year, is an Eden Project initiative aimed at bringing neighbours together to build safer, happier communities. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and partnered by Halifax and ASDA.

In 2014, a massive 4.83 million people took part, including 120,000 in Wales. This year the Big Lunch is encouraging people to get together for a day of friendship, food and fun on Sunday, June 7.

Gwion Thorpe, The Big Lunch co-ordinator for Wales, said: "A Big Lunch is the perfect ice breaker and proves that everyone has something to contribute to the community – whether that's their grandmother's sponge cake recipe, their crafting skills which allow them to create beautiful bunting and table decorations or just their knack for telling a good story.

"It's wonderful how the simple act of sharing lunch together on one day a year can start to change, quite profoundly, how people feel as part of their wider community; fostering a greater sense of place and belonging and helping people feel more included, valued and able to contribute to their community."

Anyone wishing to hold a Big Lunch on June 7 can register online for a free pack; v i s i t www.thebiglunch.com.

ANTIQUES FAIR

ANTIQUE and collector's fair, Cottrell Park Golf Resort, St Nicholas, Vale of Glamorgan on Saturday, April 4. Refreshments available to purchase in the clubhouse. Entry to fair £1; open 10am to 4pm.

WEST END SHOW FOR JACK!

JACK Dooley (singer/comedian) will be performing at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry this Saturday, March 28 from 7pm; tickets £3.

Soroptimists' fashion show raises funds for local charities

Left to right the models, Sian Howell, Clare Hart (president-elect) Bet Francis, Sue (dresser), Jeni Gower Jones, (club president) and Linda Jones, with Samantha B receiving a thank you gift from the organiser, Ann James.

MEMBERS of Soroptimist International Barry and District recently organised a fundraising fashion show and Welsh tea at High Street School, Barry by permission of club member and headteacher, as well as model for the day, Sian Howell.

Other club members also modelled the clothes supplied by Samantha B of Ewenny. Club member Jill Pearson made all the delicious sandwiches and cakes, with fellow members hosting tables.

The event raised £800, which will be donated to the president's charities, which include the Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

Visit www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district.

Health Trust offers funding

LOCAL groups and organisations with ideas to make their communities even better places to live are being invited to apply for funding from the People's Health Trust.

Active Communities is a funding programme for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year or an average of £350,000 over two years, seeking investment of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years.

It is looking for small and local projects, genuinely designed and run by local people.

For further information, call 02076 974021 or email them at apply@peopleshealthtrust.org.uk; or tinyurl.com/nq3262o.

Search for old comrade

I AM looking for David Chilton, my National Service comrade from 1960-62, after basic training at Aldershot and then with the Army (RASC) in Aden.

I know he lived at Ogmore Vale and worked in local government at Bridgend, but no trace there. He will be 75 now.

We took leave together in Nairobi and again in Mombasa, Kenya. I am hoping that he is still alive but if not, someone who has knowledge of him will make contact. Thank you.

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Rail fan brings Red Arrows back to Barry Island

JOHN BUXTON, Managing Director of the Barry Tourist Railway Tourist Railway has again secured the Red Arrows and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for this year's 'Barry at War' weekend, June 20 – 21 centred on Barry Island Railway Station.

He said: "Last year's 'Barry at War' event was a great success bringing over 40,000 people to Barry Island over our 'Barry at War' weekend. We're determined to make our 2015 event even better to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

"In this regard, the appearance of the World War Two Avro Lancaster Bomber from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at our event will be particularly poignant".

"We are keen to tell people about the history of Barry – particularly the docks, the railway and the key role Barry played in the two World Wars. I am proud of the 'Barry at War museum' that has been developed at Barry Island station by our Barry at War volunteer group, headed up by Glenn Booker.

"This will be a key feature of the event, with the re-enactors in period uniforms and dress, together with military and fashion displays, plus vintage stalls giving the station an authentic 1940's atmosphere. There's also a jazz festival going on!

"Barry is a great place and we're so pleased that we have secured the Red Arrows and Avro Lancaster for our 'Barry at War' event to help people understand more about the town's wartime history. xThis year, the Barry Tourist Railway and the Barry at War museum will bring an additional 50,000 visitors to Barry to see and hear that story," John concluded.

For more information, contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway: 01446 748816. email: john.buxton@cambriantransport.com.

Richard III's Cowbridge connection...

FOLLOWING his ceremonial burial in Leicester, King Richard III is in the news – but how many people know he had a Cowbridge connection?

Local historian Betty Alden has been looking at this, and here she reports on her investigations:

IN 1472, when Duke of Gloucester, Richard married Anne Nevill, daughter of the Earl of Warwick – born in Warwick Castle – and took on the title of Lord of Glamorgan from her inheritance.

Both Richard and Anne were seemingly highly religious and supported the building of many religious establishments, and she was a great landowner in this area.

Lady Anne Nevill is said to have gifted the building of the Llanquian, or south aisle, at Cowbridge Holy Cross church in 1473 (possibly named as a replacement for the former medieval chapel of St James, which is thought to have been at Llanquian on Stalling Down); and also the tower of Llanblethian church.

Richard was crowned King in 1483, but it was under the title of Lord of Glamorgan that he issued a charter in the following year for Cowbridge.

It instructed the Bishop of Llandaff to ensure that a chaplain was appointed to serve Cowbridge church.

Cowbridge townspeople had petitioned their King to help them in this respect.

That same year of 1484, Richard called his first and only parliament.

His days as King were numbered, the threat of an invasion by Henry Tudor overshadowing his reign.

His queen, Anne, died unexpectedly in March 1485 at the young age of twenty eight (they had just one son), and we now know for sure that Richard was killed at the Battle of Bosworth, Leicester, that August.

PG GENTILE

Paul Gentile

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David Murphy, Bryan Marsh and Claude Evans.

Annie Cooke, Hunter Jarvie, Roxana James and Jeff James.

ABOVE: Marilyn Lingard, David and Molly Owen.

Report: Derek Morgan
Photos : Heather March

THE combination of speaker, Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of M16, and a talk entitled 'National Security: Past, Present and Future' proved to be a honeytrap for 250 members of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union when they met for lunch at the Cardiff City Stadium.

Sir Richard, who had been recruited into the Secret Service while a student at Cambridge, served for 38 years in a range of responsibilities in the UK and overseas, including Nairobi, Prague, Paris, Geneva and Washington, where he was head of station.

His time in Prague was during the Cold War, and his description of the role of Spymaster – microphones hidden in every room of his house and clandestine meetings to recruit, train and liaise with British and foreign agents – was the stuff of James Bond but with thrilling authenticity.

Sir Richard presented a comprehensive and masterly review of the threats facing the UK, from ISIS and Al-Qaeda terrorists to the growing possibility of Russian intervention in the Baltic States and left the audience both enthralled with the speech and demanding a return visit.

Future branch events include a talk from Jack Straw on 'Iran; Rogue state or Ally?' on June 11, in partnership with the University of South Wales; a summer evening garden party at Fonmon Castle on July 16; and a talk in the autumn by Lord Lisvane, the former Sir Robert Rogers, recently retired Clerk to the House of Commons.

For information regarding membership, contact branch chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129 or email dwcaym@googlemail.com.

Derek Morgan (Chairman), Anne Morgan with Sir Richard Dearlove.

Graeme Morgan, Sir Richard Dearlove and Kate Thomas (Lord Lieutenant Mid Glamorgan).

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE?

Big Screen

KEVIN KLINE, Kristin Scott Thomas and Maggie Smith star in *My Old Lady* on the Big Screen at Cowbridge Town Hall this evening (March 26) at 7.30pm. Tickets £4 on the door.

Cowbridge Choral Society

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will present a concert this Saturday, March 28 in Holy Cross Church, joined by Pontypridd Choral Society in a performance of the Mozart *Requiem* and *Requiem* by Saint Saens.

Tickets are available from society members, Davies Newsagent, Cowbridge and the box office, on 01446 792175.

New members are always welcome to join the choral society and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite police station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Easter crafts

THERE will be Easter crafts at Cowbridge library on Wednesday, April 1; free drop-in session between 11am – 1pm. For ages 3+.

Author's talk

DAVID MARQUAND, author of Mammon's Kingdom: An Essay on Britain Now', will be at All Saints Church in Victoria Square on Thursday, April 9 to discuss his work, answer audience questions and sign copies of the book.

He will be introduced by MP Stephen Doughty and the discussion facilitated by Penarth resident Hywel Ceri Jones, formerly of the European Commission.

Call 02920 706455 for details. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Spring fayre

THE Windsor Bowling Club will be holding their annual spring fayre at their clubhouse, Robinswood Crescent, Penarth on Saturday, April 4. £1 includes entrance, coffee and a hot cross bun.

Parkinson's meeting

ON April 7, Hannah Churchill, Parkinson's UK research communications officer, will speak on the latest developments in Parkinson's research from 2pm in The Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys. The event is free, and is open to the public, as well as people affected by Parkinson's.

"One in 500 people in the Vale of Glamorgan have Parkinson's – a neurological condition which can leave people struggling to walk, speak and sleep, and which has no cure," said Hannah Churchill.

"There are so many promising avenues which might lead to a cure for Parkinson's. I'm looking forward to sharing the secrets of what our researchers are doing 'behind the scenes' in the labs."

The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 2pm in Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys CF64 4QQ.

Contact Rebecca Lydon 0844 225 3714 or rlydon@parkinsons.org.uk.

Mayor's concert

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is holding a charity concert at St Cyres School, Penarth, to raise funds for his two charities – Wales Air Ambulance and Barry Beavers Disabled Swimming Club on Saturday, April 18 at 7pm.

Tickets are priced at £7.50, available from the Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Coun Hamilton, said: "We have a great line-up for this concert with Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Barry Ladies Choir, Jodi Bird and Llinos Jones. I would encourage you to join me for an enjoyable evening and show support for my two worthwhile charities."

Life Is For Today (LIFT)

THE LIFT self-help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer.

We meet regularly in Cowbridge every fortnight on Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm, or sometimes between 2pm and 4pm, for visiting speakers and other activities. We are usually able to offer relaxation sessions with trained therapists and last week some members enjoyed a trip to the Vale Spa.

The next meetings will be on Wednesday, April 1 in the morning, and then on Wednesday, April 22 in the afternoon. New members are welcome to join us, or to bring a friend.

For further information or a programme of events, call Anne 01446 772843 or Jan (01446 774575). ***JB***

Choir's farewell to conductor Neil

CARDIFF Polyphonic Choir says 'goodbye' and 'farewell' to Neil Ferris in a concert at St German's Church in Adamsdown on Saturday, April 25 at 7.30pm.

The choir's chair Anne Rees explained: "This will be a sad occasion for the choir. Neil Ferris, who took over as our music director in 2005, has made a considerable impact on the choir – not only in expanding its repertoire but in developing its ability to perform demanding choral works to the highest standards. We wish him well for the future".

Tickets may be purchased in advance from Mike Pepper on 01179146559 or may be purchased on the door on the evening of the concert.

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CHARITY SHOW AT PENARTH PAGET ROOMS

THE 'Not so Royal variety show' takes place at the Paget Rooms, Penarth, on Thursday, April 2. The event is in aid of the Alzheimer's Society and Mind. Performances start at 7.30pm.

The acts include: Lady Gaga tribute and impersonator Donna Marie; Frankie Roma; Aubrey Parsons; Rachel Roberts, Shirley Bassey tribute; Rod Stevens, hypnotist; Emily Langford and Rebekah West.

Compere for the evening is the talented Helen Enser Morgan.

General admission tickets (tier) are £10, VIP tickets £15; glass of bubbly on arrival and reserved seating in main hall; VIP box £80.

Tickets on sale now – online https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/150806 or call 07788 753 753.

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Ryan Reynolds shines in uneven dark comedy...

by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IF anyone exemplifies the up and down nature of Hollywood it's Ryan Reynolds.

The affable performer has, since his breakthrough way back in 2002 with *Van Wilder*, attacked most genres available, balancing frothy comedies like *The Proposal* with blockbusters like *Green Lantern* and more dramatic fare like *Buried*.

However, his latest film sees him return to the off-kilter, idiosyncratic genre he first dabbled with in 2005's *The Nines* (a curio worth seeking out) in *The Voices*, where he plays Jerry, a man who's encouraged by his court-appointed psychiatrist to ask out his work crush Fiona (Gemma Arterton).

But when she stands him up on a date, events soon unravel, not helped by the fact that Jerry's pets are talking to him...

Talking animals aren't a new phenomenon in films; after all Dr Doolittle had his share of talking to the animals, while the likes of *Cats & Dogs* also saw creatures talking too, but the concept has rarely been used to such dark effect as it does in *The Voices*.

The talking pets may be only one strand of the film, but together these come together to make a blackly comic film that straddles the line between comedy and horror very bravely, and if ultimately its execution is outstripped by its ambition, it still makes for an intriguing viewing experience.

Its ace card is in Ryan Reynolds, an actor who may have had a tough time of it lately, moving from critically-panned film to critically-panned film, but who is more than capable of handling his own in the acting department.

To be fair to the actor, given his present position in the Hollywood pecking order, this film is a brave choice, but one he grabs with both hands. As the film develops, we learn that Jerry is far more than just your usual, socially-awkward individual, yet Reynolds' delivery is pitched just right.

The film may jar between off-kilter comedy and slasher/serial killer horror, but Reynolds' turn manages to anchor it, the actor looking at his best since *Buried*.

His funny bone is the one we're used to seeing, but when given weightier material he doesn't do badly and this plays to his strengths, while his voice work for his pets, a cantankerous, sociopathic Scottish cat and a dog with a deep voice and a sad face, mines more towards comedy but works well.

What is lacking is enough of a sturdy construction around Jerry to really hold the film up. Reynolds holds up his end of the bargain, but the story never truly decides where it wants to lie. It's pitch black in places, and Marjane Satrapi's direction is wonderfully stylised to suit the mood, whether it's going full on *Friday The 13th* as Jerry 'innocently' tries to catch up to a character, or a bonkers song and dance number at the film's climax that should be hopelessly out of place but cruises by on its goofy charm.

There are some lovely little touches dotted throughout – the way the world visually changes when Jerry is taking the medication he so desperately should be using, through to a whole new take on talking heads – but you still can't quite get hold of what screenwriter Michael R Perry is trying to get across.

There are likeable enough turns from Gemma Arterton and Anna Kendrick as Jerry's co-workers, who bite off more than they can chew when they get close to him, and the whole is more than engaging, but ultimately *The Voices*' undoing is its lack of focus when it comes to its tone.

There's nothing wrong with trying to be dark and funny, but the inability here to pitch it precisely enough means that while it's a diverting and interesting watch, it certainly won't linger long afterwards.

VERDICT – A curious film that is tonally a little awkward, *The Voices* still manages to engage, in no small part thanks to Ryan Reynolds' well-pitched lead turn. Its lack of focus may knock a few marks off it, but as an off-the-wall dark comedy it does a good job. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Life After Beth* (2014), *American Psycho* (2000).

COFFEE MORNING RAISES MONEY FOR VALEPLUS

AT a charity coffee morning hosted by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Howard Hamilton, in the Civic Offices, £573 was raised to help Valeplus to carry out their work in the area.

At the event, the trustees of Valeplus were presented with a cheque for £484 by Bernard and Vina Honeysett. For his recent 80th birthday, Bernard generously asked friends and family to make donations to ValePlus, instead of giving him gifts.

Steve Thomas, of ValePlus, said: "We are extremely grateful to Bernard and Vina for their generous gift and to the mayor for hosting this event. The money raised will be put towards the cost of a new mini bus for our service users."

DN

Oxfam in Penarth needs volunteers

VOLUNTEERS retiring or finding work elsewhere spell a challenge for the Oxfam shop in Penarth.

It means there is a gap in the front of shop volunteer team.

The Oxfam shop in Penarth has always had the support of the local community which over the years has resulted in numerous volunteers coming forward to help Oxfam raise funds for their work at home and abroad. Now Jayne Luxton, the shop manager, is seeking new volunteers who enjoy meeting members of the public and working as part of a small, diverse and committed team.

Jayne said: "We are so grateful to all the volunteers who have given so many years of their time to help us in the shop, some of whom have now moved on to other things.

"Our current volunteer team includes people from diverse backgrounds from students, the unemployed and retired. Recently we put out an appeal for volunteers to help us price up books and we had a tremendous response.

"Now we urgently need new volunteers to complete our volunteer team by helping us with our 'front of shop' work."

Anyone who would like to know more should ring or call in and ask for Jayne Luxton at the Oxfam Penarth shop, 8/8a Windsor Street, Penarth. Telephone 02920 706358.

'The COUNCIL has transformed the Island'

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

MARCH is always a busy and sometimes controversial time when setting the council tax for the following year. So, it is always interesting to see the politicking that occurs at that time, but the work to get to that final position takes place months beforehand, when all councillors can get involved in one way or another.

Each year there is an opportunity to scrutinise the initial budgets during November for all councillors to consider, but usually there are no amendments proposed and so the final budget is calculated including the amount of council tax needed to balance income against the expenditure. The council's budget comes, mainly, from the Welsh Government grant and council tax, so any shortfall in income has to come from two sources, either a use of reserves or an increase in council tax.

The main source of income comes from Government, which was again cut by 3.5 per cent or £5.5 million this year. We are making savings of over £6.8million next year and an estimated £24.7million over the next three years. We are also using £2.5million of reserves to balance the budget.

As council tax only provides a quarter of the council's income, this year a rise of 3.9 per cent gives about 1 per cent increase of our total income, far less than our reduced budget. Our spending will also reduce by £2million despite the increase in council tax. It should also be noted that, unlike in England, no funding has ever been allocated to Welsh Councils to enable them to freeze council tax.

I consider that the proposed increase in council tax in the Vale is a reasonable balance between the financial pressures on services, particularly education and adult social care and the financial pressures on our council taxpayers, which I fully understand. However, if services are to continue there was no reasonable alternative.

I have indicated previously, this administration's aim is to set council tax at the average in Wales (we are still below that level) as well as meet the amount of money the Welsh Government suggests we should spend on services. In line with our commitment to schools, we are achieving that suggested level.

This pragmatic approach and a rise of a 3.9 per cent in council tax, which equates to £40.14 for the year (less than £1 a week) on a Band D property, is one of the lowest in Wales, whereas other councils, like Cardiff, have increases of five per cent.

I therefore find it incredible that this administration is being attacked for setting budgets in this way and doing so as a result of the cuts being imposed on the council and Welsh Government by the Westminster Government. If services are to survive then the money has to come from somewhere, and should be found by increasing taxes on the multi-national companies, many of whom it appear, avoid paying taxes, along with the richest in our society.

We should not be hitting those worse off in society. Why do we have 'foodbanks' in the 21st century, which by the way, were not supported by our MP initially. I never ever believed that I would see a return to the 'soup kitchens' of the past, but regrettably it has become a reality.

I think that Westminster politicians should stand up and be counted and not be politicking locally about things for which they have no responsibility and which are devolved matters to either the council or Welsh Government. To do so, in my opinion, is a smokescreen to the real issues emanating from Westminster.

Last month I indicated this administration's desire to continue to improve schools and reported on the consultation for co-education in Barry with a preferred option for a way forward. Since then, the cross-party scrutiny committees have discussed it and received representations from teachers and parents. The points they raised will be considered by a further cabinet report, which could make some subtle, but I hope acceptable changes to our preferred option (such as no phasing of year groups).

This will be considered before the commencement of the eight-week consultation, due to begin on May 11, 2015.

I also note that there has been an open letter to me in the press from teachers and I will respond through a letter to the press, as I have received no 'direct' letter from them. However, I have made it clear that if the majority of parents, pupils and staff, do not want co-education, so be it. However, I reiterate the point that this could lose grant funding from Welsh Government to rebuild and renovate the secondary schools in Barry, in a similar way to the schools in Cowbridge, Penarth and soon Llantwit Major.

I sincerely hope we can see the £35million secondary schools transformation and the creation of separate English and Welsh medium campuses in Barry.

I understand that the local MP has become involved in this educational matter, even though Westminster plays no part in education in Wales, it being a devolved matter. I think it would be better to concentrate on Westminster issues, like the massive public service cuts that he supports, such as the 'bedroom tax' etc. It is now also clear from the budget that more public service and welfare cuts are on the way, so where does he stand on those issues?

I fail to see why devolved matters are of interest to a Westminster politician who claims to be solving them. I am afraid I have to set some records straight as our MP seems to imply, through his literature, that he has in some way transformed Barry Island, secured investment on Barry Island and secured a new pleasure park on Barry Island.

Let's be fair – he may have talked to some people, but it is in fact the Vale of Glamorgan Council that has transformed the Island with the help of Welsh Government grant aid and has nothing to do with Westminster.

It was the Vale of Glamorgan Council's planners who have been negotiating over the funfair site and resolved the planning application. It also has to be emphasised that planning did not prevent the funfair from opening as no planning application was required to continue as it was. It also seems that our MP has now become involved with leisure issues; another devolved matter, but completely misunderstands the issues under consideration by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Similarly, there are issues with the libraries, which we are attempting to restructure, hopefully in partnership with the community. This situation would not be needed if the Westminster cuts were not so severe.

It is suggested that the Vale is not funded in the same way as other councils, which relates to the funding formulae in place. Although the Welsh Government has carried out reviews, it does not assist us as the criteria used such as deprivation, free school meals, European Funding Areas (we are not in one) do not give us the extra funding available elsewhere.

Therefore this council has no alternative but to continue to provide the best services that we can deliver, although it may have to do so in a different way to the past.

Finally, if you agree or disagree with me, I hope you will understand that we are doing as much as we can within the resources available.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vale AM's surgeries

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding surgeries tomorrow (Friday, March 27) at 4pm – 4.30pm in The Gathering Place, St Athan, and at 4.45pm – 5.15pm at St Athan Old School Hall, Church Lane CF62 4PL. No appointment necessary.

Rhoose talk

RHOOSE and District History Society will present a talk by Dr Ed Cloutman on Henry Williams of Llancarfan tomorrow (Friday, March 27) at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door: £1 adult; 50p child (under 16).

Hall singing

ON May 1, Cor Meibion Maesteg will be staging an informal singing evening at the hall at Llangynwydd Community Hall.

There will be no charge for admission; doors will be open at 8pm.

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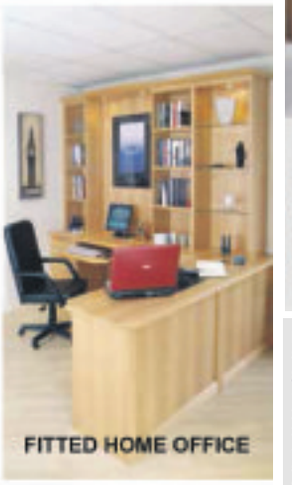

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The Llantwit Major junior rugby news

AS a busy March nears its end the players and parents of Llantwit Major RFC under-13s will be glad of a week's rest after a hectic schedule saw them travel 210 miles, meet four new opposition and play in a series of games that had all teams score a total of 40 tries.

The small matter of a 1,500 mile road trip now awaits as what began on March 1 with a trip up the Sirhowhy Valley to play Ynysddu will end on April 7 when the Ammoknights return from their five-day tour to Holland.

That initial 67 mile round trip saw them record a hard-earned 58-17 win against a resilient Ynysddu team, during which Leighton Pawsey ripped up the record books for the team, running in an impressive four tries.

That was followed up with another 45-mile excursion as the Ammoknights enjoyed Ferndale's hospitality last Sunday.

Following several days of glorious March sunshine, the rain did its best to put paid to running rugby, but luckily both sides produced a high-scoring affair.

The Ammoknights enjoyed the better of the spoils, producing some good rugby in trying conditions to pick up their second win in succession.

Leading 12-5 at the break, the Ammoknights showed real character against physically stronger opposition to run in five second half tries to their opponents' two to end the game winners by 43 points to 19.

In order to give those hard working mums mother's day off, the Ammoknights travelled up to Chepstow on Friday, March 13, to play under the floodlights. Playing new opposition is always a worthwhile venture and this match certainly lived up to the previous travelling standards.

It was Zak Williams turn to produce a scoring fest, notching up a hat-trick of tries. With the Ammoknights scoring in the first 30 seconds, it was always going to be hard work for the home side but they battled hard in the first half with the score 12-5 for the second week running.

With both teams showing Friday night adventure, a ding dong battle ensued with the Ammoknights having to work hard to secure a 31-15 win.

Try of the night went to Ben Moignard who finished strongly after some excellent back play put the flying winger into space.

March madness finished back at the Recreation Ground on Sunday with a home match against Bedwas. Turning up slightly short the home team lent several players to their travelling friends, and as usual their efforts were to be commended.

Cian Davies getting on the scoresheet against his own team showed the spirit that Llantwit's boys show regardless of who they play for. With some regular names on the scoresheet it was pleasing to see scrum half Ben Reilly get his reward for some recent performances with a sniping run ending with him scoring under the posts.

A big hand must go to George Burczak who, in his first game of rugby, scored a great solo try.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for all their efforts during March as without their support we wouldn't be able to travel so far afield.

The players can now change their focus to finishing off their charity fundraising as they complete a 400 mile team bike ride to help raise money for Bobath Wales up at Llandow Race Track on Tuesday, March 30.

MR

Last Sunday, Llantwit Major under-12s travelled away to play Bryncethin, and this was held at the immaculate Dderwyn college grounds.

After a good win against Rhydyfelin the previous Sunday, Llantwit were in excellent form for this rematch against a good Bryncethin team. Llantwit Major had a point to prove after their last encounter and from the start you could tell this was going to be a classic example of good rugby by both parties.

Before Llantwit could get into their stride Bryncethin drew first blood, as virtually from the first kick of the ball the Llantwit defence was left standing for the opposition to score.

Llantwit regrouped and started to show Bryncethin they didn't turned up just for the ride. A well work move granted Llantwit a scrum on Bryncethin's five metre line, and the ball collected by scrum half Stephen Williams and moved through the hands of Kieran Daw to Jacob Pereira who sidestepped his way through to score. The conversion was completed by Daw.

Again the ball passed through the hands of the Llantwit backs moving across the pitch gaining ground all the time, and good darting runs from our wingers Kofi Jones and Rian Thomas put Bryncethin on the back foot. The ball reached outside half Kieran Daw, who looped around before cutting inside to score; again the conversion was completed by Daw.

Action from the under-13s' game against Bedwas.

Llantwit were now working as a unit, the forwards now hunting down their opposition and competing for every ball, and Sam Deere, Spencer Williams and Rhys Lloyd were disrupting any attacking moves Bryncethin were putting together.

The powerhouse of the team - Aled Leitch, Sennan Cummings-Jones and Isaac McBride - competed well against a larger front row beefed up by Jacob Hunt and Rhodri Richards.

Bryncethin had other ideas about the outcome of this game, however, and from a scrum on Llantwit's five metre line, even with the brave defending by Cai Ellerton, scored a pick and drive by their No 8.

Llantwit were now camped in Bryncethin's 22 for the remainder of this half until a string of poor tackles gifted Bryncethin's winger a free charge down the right wing to score a lovely try, to make the score 15-14 in Bryncethin's favour.

The second half began as it finished with Llantwit in the opponents' half with a scrum conceded by Bryncethin. The ball was skillfully hooked out by Sennan supported by new prop Luke Thomas, was moved out to Pereira who drew the defenders to allow outside centre Connor Booker to drive through and offload to Cole Saunders; coming in from deep he danced his way through to score.

Again Bryncethin came back and from a ruck inside Llantwit's 22 their big centre collected the ball and despite a gallant tackle by Sam Deere, powered over the line to score.

With minutes to go it seemed that Llantwit's winning run was coming to an end. Bryncethin now held on to the ball well and a last minute charge saw them advancing into Llantwit territory again.

They moved the ball along their back line from outside half to inside centre but the next pass wasn't as accurate, and Morgan Thomas, Llantwit's left winger, facing a three man overlap, came off his line and intercepted Bryncethin's last pass of the game to run half the length of the pitch chased by the entire Bryncethin team to score a well deserved try for Llantwit to snatch victory.

With the cheers of the jubilant Llantwit parents still praising Morgan's try the final whistle was blown. Final score Bryncethin 20, Llantwit Major 24.

MD

Llantwit Major under-7s travelled to Porthcawl to play at the beautiful setting of Rest Bay.

With the sun shining it was perfect conditions for running rugby which both teams tried at every opportunity.

With the under-8s short of players the under-7s loaned Ifan Lovejoy, Evan Boult and Tomos Davies so they could fulfil their fixture. Well done and thank you to the guys who volunteered.

Llantwit started slowly and allowed Porthcawl to notch up a few tries before they sprang to life with a few of their own.

Unfortunately it was all too late and they lost the first game 6-2 with the tries coming from Dylan Godsell and Thomas Collins.

The second game was a slightly different affair with the team stopping Porthcawl's attack numerous times and scoring some great tries.

At the final whistle they had just fallen short, losing 8-7, with tries coming from Oliver Ingram, Theo Elsenburg, Ben Butterworth, Dylan Godsell and Thomas Collins (3).

The team still had energy to burn so Porthcawl agreed to a third match. Llantwit battled hard to avoid a whitewash and nicked it in the end, winning 6-7 with tries from Kyle Pagano and Maverick Jennings.

While the third game was under way a part of the team were also in action against Treherbert. That game was all about the attack with both teams scoring tries for fun.

Unfortunately the official score wasn't maintained but the coaches felt that it was close, possibly with Llantwit nicking it with tries from Dylan Godsell, Oliver Ingram and Thomas Collins.

Player of the week went to the débutante Ben Butterworth who capped a fine first game by getting on the scoresheet - well done!

Team: Sam Whitbread, Keenan Faulkener, Ben Butterworth, Norah Griffiths, Aaron Moce, Dylan Godsell, Oliver Ingram, Thomas Collins, Theo Elsenburg, Maverick Jennings and Kyle Pagano.

IG

COWBRIDGE JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Under-14s reach Blues Cup final!

ON a glorious spring Sunday morning, Cowbridge under-14s made it through to their first Blues Cup final with a comprehensive semi-final victory, 48-7, at home against Llanishen.

Cowbridge began the game with a new found intensity straight from the kick off, and although Llanishen defended well, there was an inevitability that the first try would come soon.

Llanishen were penalised five metres from their own line, but rather than take the three points, Cowbridge elected to run the ball. A simple tap penalty was passed straight to Dan O'Sullivan, the hard-running Cowbridge inside centre. O'Sullivan, with a subtle sidestep, dived over for the game's opening try.

From the kick off, Llanishen managed to gain some possession and applied a huge amount of pressure on the Cowbridge defence which held strong. Some brave tackles by Ben Jones and Luke Connor stopped the larger Llanishen forwards from crossing the Cowbridge line.

From a scrum just inside their own half, Cowbridge scored their second try of the game. Evan Thomas made a great pass off his left to put O'Sullivan into space.

O'Sullivan side-stepped off his left then his right and showed great strength and pace to make it to the try line without a Llanishen hand being laid on him. I Williams converted.

Once again Llanishen came straight back at Cowbridge; this time they won a scrum just outside the Cowbridge 22.

With some simple passing, Llanishen put their speedy full back clear, and with a couple of missed tackles he opened the scoring for Llanishen to make it 12-7.

This try seemed to galvanise the Cowbridge team into the best phase of play the boys have put together all season.

Cowbridge won a scrum just inside the Llanishen half, I Williams fed Thomas who in turn put O'Sullivan through a gap in the midfield.

O'Sullivan was brought down five metres short of the Llanishen line.

The forwards produced quick ball for three successive pods; first, Jack Little ran hard at the Llanishen defence, then O'Sullivan had another go, finally Reuben Williams, the Cowbridge number 8, burst over for a great team try. I Williams converted for a halftime score of Cowbridge 19, Llanishen 7.

Cowbridge began the second half as they had finished the first - in great form. O'Sullivan burst through the midfield again.

He was tackled just short of the line, but Iestyn Fenn, filling in at second row, got onto his shoulder to receive the pop pass and score Cowbridge's fourth try of the game which Williams converted.

Llanishen did not let their heads drop and came back hard, using their much bigger pack to great effect.

Time and time again Llanishen battered the Cowbridge defensive line to try and get their second try of the game, but once again heroic defence from Jack Dixon, Lewis Hawke and the rest of the Cowbridge pack thwarted all their efforts.

The game's decisive try came once again from O'Sullivan. A scrum just inside the Cowbridge half gave Thomas the platform to release him.

A couple of sidesteps, a powerful hand-off and great pace saw O'Sullivan outpace the covering defence to score his third try of the game in the right hand corner, taking the score to 31-7.

With the game entering its final stages Cowbridge scored two late tries. Reuben Williams pounced on a loose ball from a Llanishen lineout, just on the Cowbridge five metre line, which Williams converted.

On the very last play, Cowbridge showed all their team skills to round off a great performance. Straight from the kick off, O'Sullivan put his centre partner Harry Ridge clear.

Ridge offloaded to Rowan Allin who stepped inside and popped a nice pass to Iwan Price-Thomas, who was brought down inches short of the line.

The forwards cleared out, Harry Bluck found himself at scrum-half, but instead of going for a try, he made the unselfish decision to give a simple pass for Iestyn Fenn to score his second try of the game.

Congratulations boys on a great performance and your first appearance in the Blues Cup final.

GJ

With spring sunshine on their backs Cowbridge under-11s produced some fine running rugby to counter a much bigger Dinas Powys side away from home.

The match, played over three periods, started well with Ruben Davies and Robbie Brown scoring tries either side of a home score.

However, the first period saw the home side get on top, particularly at the breakdown where Cowbridge were driven off the ball on numerous occasions.

This allowed Dinas Powys to get plenty of turnover ball, allowing them to then run in four unanswered tries to take the first period by five tries to two.

In a turnaround much like Wales in Rome the previous day, the second period was a complete contrast as Cowbridge dominated the period both in terms of possession and on the scoreboard.

The visitors played some delightful rugby, moving the ball across Cowbridge's pacey backline resulting in some lovely tries being scored.

Both wingers, Finlay Brace and Finlay Sullivan, scored a brace of tries apiece with influential centres Will Evans and Ruben Davies also touching down for a try each.

Second row Rhys Ford ensured the forwards were also represented on the scoresheet.

For all the attacking rugby on show there were also notable efforts in defence with Robbie Brown a one-man tackle machine and Finlay Brace also producing a high tackle count to ensure Dinas were unable to reply to any of Cowbridge's seven tries.

With the score now nine tries to five in favour of Cowbridge, the home side produced a mini revival as they scored three tries at the start of the final period to reduce the deficit to one.

However Cowbridge, following a few substitutions, responded superbly as centre Ruben Davies ran in four tries and winger Finlay Brace his third of the match.

The match ended with a fantastic try as full back Steffan Evans collected a kick diving full length and regaining his feet to beat two men and send the ball across the backline for winger Finlay Brace to touchdown in the corner for his fourth try of the match.

Cowbridge ended 15 tries to eight winners and displayed some wonderful handling skills that would not be out of place at a higher level in a performance that thoroughly entertained the travelling Cowbridge support.

Squad: Will Harris, Iolo Davies, Ethan Francis, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Will Evans, Harry Treharne, Rhys Ford, Finlay Ball, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Steffan Evans, Robbie Brown, Oliver Jones, Sebastian Johns-Powell, Rhys Pritchard, Finlay Brace and Ifor Rees.

MF

Cowbridge RFC back in action

FOLLOWING the excitement of the final Saturday of the Six Nations, it's back to the even more exciting Division 3 East Central A for Cowbridge RFC.

This Saturday the First XV travel to Llandaff North. With just six games to go this season, every one is crucial for Cowbridge as we battle to move up the table to safety.

With several players absent at a wedding this will be a tough match, but with the spirit shown recently we can still go there with confidence.

The next matches for the team are Canton at home the following Saturday and Llantwit Major away on April 11.

On Monday night, the youth BC team were competing in the quarter-final of the Cardiff and District Cup at Glamorgan Wanderers. The final score was 8-8 with both teams scoring one try, and Cowbridge therefore go through to the semi-final as the away team – very well done boys!

The youth BC team are scheduled to be at home to Llandaff this Saturday looking to consolidate their position at the top of the table, but there is a possibility this might have to be postponed to accommodate another cup match; check with the clubhouse on Thursday night. The youth BD team are home against Llandaff North.

RV/RK

Happy Easter
Spring into Easter
at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

Barry's West End comes alive at Easter time...

AND THERE'S LOTS FOR CHILDREN TOO!

EASTER is a special time on High Street – it means the lighter evenings have arrived, the sunnier days, the bonnet parade and The GEM's Easter bunny competition.

There's never been a secret to the success of High Street, Barry: the traders know their customers personally, go that extra mile and are keen to thank them for their loyalty by putting on Christmas, Easter and Summer events.

This year is no different with the Easter bonnet and costume parade being held on Saturday, April 4, from 11am to 1pm. Mums and dads, and guardians, are all welcome to bring children along to take part.

The meeting point is the new building where Hyper Value use to be.

The age categories are up to three years old; four to six years old; seven to ten years old; and 11 to 13 years old.

There will be prizes at the end for the children, and there's Kl Parties Entertainment in Hubana afterwards free to all children (there will be an extra charge for face painting and refreshments).

The GEM is also running an Easter bunny competition to win Easter eggs:

Children simply have to track down the names of the Easter bunnies featured in shop windows on High Street. List as many names of the 20 rabbits as possible, put your name, address and telephone number alongside your list and hand it in to Jade boutique, or send it into the Glamorgan GEM at *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk*.

The bunnies can be seen from this Thursday, March 26 until Tuesday, April 7.

Themed parties all the rage for Dr Bob

One of Dr Bob's amazing creations – Rapunzel's tower.

DR BOB'S Balloons is a High Street institution and internationally known for balloon sculpture and artistry.

Whether it's a wedding, christening, charity event or special occasion Bob Armstrong is able to make it unforgettable with his extravagant creations.

Bob, who had done a number of stints as chairman of High Street traders, explained: "There's been an increased demand for 'themed' events – the biggest is Frozen, for boys it's The Avengers and Doctor Who."

Bob can create whatever character you're after, Fireman Sam, Mister Tickle, Star Wars characters…

"People want things personalised too. We can put photos of people on balloons – that's very popular. We do 'bespoke' creations. People come to us and say they want something special, and we oblige and make sure it's within their budget."

To find out how Bob and the staff can help brighten your special family occasion or company event call 01446 730780; http://www.balloons-unlimited.com/.

Miss Holmes introduces the very special 'Grand Illusions'

ABOVE:
The high quality Grand Illusions paint range, inspired by the Nordic-French palette, is only available at limited outlets, including Miss Holmes on High Street.

STYLE is synonymous with 'Miss Holmes' which always has exclusive gifts and items that delight its customers.

The latest addition to the shop is a very special vintage paint range called Grand Illusions.

The owner of Miss Holmes Nicola explained: "Grand Illusions is a unique, easy to use matt paint inspired by the Nordic-French palette. There are 26 colours in all.

"It is sophisticated and self-priming with very good adhesion. The paints are eco-friendly and can be applied to most surfaces such as furniture, walls and floors. People are very keen on reviving old pieces of furniture – it's ideal for that."

Grand Illusions replicates the buttermilk paint of the 18th and 19th centuries, is water-based and made with earth pigments, chalk, clay and a very small amount of acrylic medium to bind it together.

For more on Grand Illusions pop in to Miss Holmes for a chat with the staff.

The boutique is a real Alladin's cave that beckons in those who love a browse. There is the Willow Tree range of figurines, home fragrances courtesy of Ashleigh Burwood, the bath and body products Nougat Naturals, watches, jewellery and distinctive gift cards.

Nicola's aim is that whether it is a man, woman, boy or girl, there's always a gift they can find to delight a loved-one. Miss Holmes succeeds in providing something different or luxurious without being over-priced.

doctor bob
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Happy Easter

Spring into Easter

at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

'MEAT' THE BUTCHER!

Vic Hopkins is the local butcher and will be busy right up to Easter Saturday.

'CREATIVE WALES' IS THE THEME AT ISLAND ROAD

A browse in Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will inspire you.

ISLAND ROAD, with Homemade Wales and Bespoke Jewellery Workshop is a haven of Welsh creativity and the perfect place to pick up that special gift.

Robert Linder of Bespoke Jewellery Workshop explained that people are keen on individual designs, something unique, rather than mass produced.

"I and my two designers and goldsmiths, Clare and Emma, are able to handmake one-off pieces of jewellery. People can come in for a consultation and we can bounce ideas back and forth and create something very special.

"Clients let us know what they want and we will make it."

Robert has been located on Island Road for two years – he also owns Brooklinde Jewellery by Design in High Street arcade in Cardiff.

People love popping in to the Barry workshop for a browse and chat with Robert about making that unforgettable piece of jewellery – perhaps a ring, necklace, band – that will delight and dazzle for a lifetime. A wedding? A special occasion? A gift that will never be forgotten? Platinum, gold, silver – it's your choice.

Next door on Island Road, Fay Blakeley continues the theme of Welsh creativity at Homemade Wales which stocks handcrafted gifts and homewares.

Fay explained: "There are two elements to the shop, everything is handcrafted by Welsh people or made in Wales. We are the only outlet in the area to have the products displayed."

Rather than stock mass-produced items that can be found in any multiple shop outlet, Fay was keen to select individually sourced pieces.

"I wanted to establish the shop as part of the community and benefit the Welsh economy."

Homemade Walescan be found on Facebook at: *www.facebook.com/homemadewales*.

Homemade Wales Handcrafted Welsh Gifts & Homeware is run by Fay Blakeley and items are either handcrafted in Wales or by Welsh people, benefitting the country's economy.

Be inspired at Anastasia Beads, Barry

ANASTASIA BEADS, situated on High Street, is a must-visit for those keen on jewellery.

A spokesman said: "We've got a huge range of beads, healing and palm stones.

"We've also got Celtic pewter jewellery, charm bracelets – and lots of other ranges of fashion and Made in Wales jewellery.

"There's also a great selection of fascinators and hats – even fascinators for shoes!"

If you want to be inspired, or track down something new, Anastasia Beads is the place for you.

Affinity Wales may provide a solution to your problem

AFFINITY WALES provides hypnotherapy sessions that can help people overcome those nagging problems.

Toby, the hypnotherapist, explained: "The service is safe and in a confidential environment.

"Whether it is a concern about weight-loss, stress, smoking, anxiety, sexual dysfunction, worry or pain management, a person can be helped.

"We are able to tailor a treatment plan for clients. For some people it may be just three to five sessions. If something is deep-rooted it may take more."

There are special concessions for the police and people working in emergency services.

Toby is accredited with the National Hypnotherapy Society. For more information, call 07483 130 449.

Butterflies says look out for our relaunch soon!

BUTTERFLIES is celebrating its sixth anniversary this Easter and would like to thank all our loyal customers for their support over the years.

We hope you will join us in the celebration on the opening of our new and bigger shop down the road at 8 High Street which will open soon. Keep an eye out for more details on our massive launch which will be publicised in The GEM.

Jade BOUTIQUE
New Season Stock Arriving Daily
ADESSO SANDALS have now arrived
Looking forward to moving to new premises June 1st to 74 High Street
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Jade on the move

JADE boutique, which stocks clothing, bags and accessories for the glamorous woman, is one of the most familiar names on High Street, Barry.

It's also on the move – just a few yards down the road to the unit currently occupied by Butterflies.

Owner Jane James and Cath Buckeridge are well known by ladies in the town for their friendly advice – spring and summer styles are ready to be viewed.

Jane said: "We're moving to be in a better location and hope to complete everything in the last week in May, first week in June."

Jane has traded for 30 years on Broad Street, Island Road and High Street, and when she's off on trips selecting the latest in fashion for the style-conscious woman, Cath is there to hold the fort.

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Another "Eggcellent" GEM Competition
Join in the fun, & WIN Easter Eggs!

Can you find the rabbits hiding in High Street, Broad Street & Barry Island?
We have 20 rabbits hiding in the windows of various businesses.
Write down as many rabbits' names you can find along with your name & phone number.
You can email your answer to gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk or hand in to Jade Boutique on High Street. Normal competition rules apply.
Closing date 8th April 2015.
6 lucky winners will each win an easter egg!

Spring into Easter
at High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street

GORGEOUS BRANDS AT BRYL'S BOUTIQUE

ABOVE: Glamour at Bryl's Boutique includes dresses by Ted Baker.

THE rails in Bryl's Boutique are filled with gorgeous new spring-summer collections from fantastic brands such as Ted Baker, French Connection, Great Plains, Darling, Masai, Sandwich and Yaya.

Teamed with Ugg footwear, a pair of Fit Flops or a gorgeous handbag, there really is something to suit all ages and purses at Bryl's.

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EASY PARKING AVAILABLE

Beespoke Cycles has all the top advice for a fit, healthy pastime

ABOVE: There are lots of attractively priced bicycles at Beespoke Cycles to suit all requirements.

BEAUTIFUL spring days inspire many people to get fitter – and cycling has become a boom pastime thanks to Britain's successes in the Tour de France and at the Olympics.

Whether you are an established cyclist or a willing novice Beespoke Cycles is there with expert advice to help you out.

Gerard Davies said: "People can pop along to select a bike or get their current one serviced now the better weather is on its way. There is fabulous cycling to enjoy in the Vale.

"We are happy to discuss all aspects with people – whether they're interested in a bike for commuting, exercise on the road, or off-road. We're got bikes to suit all requirements.

"We also have a very quick repair and service provision."

Beespoke Cycles is open from Monday to Saturday and could be the gateway to a new pleasurable, healthy pastime.

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Visitor gets 15 out of 15 to scoop Rotary prize!

WHEN Cowbridge Rotary Club held a competition, backed by The GEM, in advance of the RBS Six Nation, asking rugby fans to predict the results of the 15 games, it seemed likely that entrants would need to get 12 or 13 right to be in contention.

However, that theory fell apart when a hotel guest, staying at The Bear, became the only one out of 412 entries to get all 15 games correct!

Step forward Matt Brown, who lives in Northamptonshire and was visiting Cowbridge on the Friday of the first match (Wales v England).

A Cowbridge Rotary spokesman said: "Matt and Anna live in Northamptonshire and were visiting friends in Cowbridge on the weekend of the Wales v England match.

"They asked for their prize to be donated to a Cowbridge charity, and they know Roger Helliwell who is a volunteer at the Cowbridge Physic Garden, so they have donated their £100 prize to the Physic Garden Trust.

"There were 412 entries and the Rotary Club of Cowbridge is grateful to everyone who entered. We are also grateful to The GEM for publicising the competition, and for its support in distributing entry forms. The Bear Hotel kindly hosted a posting-box for entries".

The chairman of the Physic Garden Trust, Jo Homfray, said: "This was a really thoughtful gesture by Mr Brown, and it is much appreciated.

"The money will go towards maintaining the Physic Garden, and we will make good use of it."

After printing costs, The Rotary Club was able to put £235 into its charity account, while Matt Brown's prize money has been donated to the Physic Garden.

Ex-newsreader is the new Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan

TODAY (March 26) sees the inauguration of Mrs Jayne James of Pyle as High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan at St John's Church, Newton, Porthcawl.

She will make her 'declaration' before the Lord Lieutenant, in the presence of Mr Justice Wyn Williams, former High Sheriffs, civic dignitaries, armed and uniformed services, family and friends.

Probably best-known as the face of BBC breakfast news, her broadcasting career spanned three decades. She presented news bulletins at BBC Wales for 27 years, before she decided to retire in 2012, to pursue other career ambitions.

She is now a partner in a Womenswear fashion retail shop, Loulou, based in the grounds of Pyle Garden Centre, which is family-owned. She also oversees the running of the Olive Tree restaurant based in the garden centre.

Mrs James has worked as a volunteer for various charities for more than 30 years, including Barnardo's, Save the Children, George Thomas Hospice, Sandville, and British Heart Foundation.

During her year as High Sheriff, she has decided to raise funds for Gofal, a mental health and well-being charity based in Bridgend.

Two events have been organised, a charity ball and a fashion show. Money raised in excess of £10,000 will open the Crystal Ball fund, for vulnerable people with mental health issues.

One of her plans for her year of office is to visit local schools to talk about the role of the High Sheriff and its historic links with the Magna Carta, and also find new entrants to qualify for the High Sheriff Youth Awards, a scheme which recognises and rewards special achievements of individuals and groups.

Memorable residential venture activity week for Barry pupils

PUPILS from Holton Primary School, Barry, took part in a memorable educational Venture Holiday at Manor Adventure, Llanwrtyd Wells last week.

Centre Staff led high quality sessions that were designed to instil confidence and provide a real sense of achievement.Activities included kayaking, orienteering, climbing, archery and most importantly, all pupils completed their 'Basic Skill Adventurous Activity Certificate' during their weeks stay. AG

Women artists display creativity in exhibition

THE Women's Arts Association open art exhibition at Art Central, Barry, has more than 60 items on show.

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "I would like to congratulate you all for continuing to provide women across the country with an opportunity to showcase their creative talent and for giving them a visual voice to celebrate women in Wales.

"This open exhibition allows everyone to take part, and this year has welcomed Bethan, a budding artist of only nine years, with her charming hand-painted, pink slippers."

Penelope Rose Cowley, the vice chair of Women's Arts Association, thanked the Vale Council for hosting this year's exhibition in such a "stunning space". Eve Hart, a Vale based artist officially declared the exhibition open.

The exhibition will continue until March 28 at Art Central Gallery, Barry Town Hall, King Square, and is open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D871.

- **£2,000:** 794920.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 739715, 862661, 493881, 363214, 109480, 248692, 687110, 864839, 573413, 638114, 553708, 238212, 846341, 822077, 594559, 590520, 628332, 887191, 848383, 001351.
- **£5:** 369604, 695149, 204451, 630829, 339963, 584555, 535032, 541778, 366969, 505358, 439606, 724479, 884375, 183087, 625091, 721628, 719712, 806039, 824880, 378149, 887834, 193697, 685186, 112978, 852773, 113214, 623298, 718942, 110950, 686249, 162689, 529004, 669994, 220945, 228778, 989082, 132281, 717164, 187651, 220697, 335344, 551162, 471460, 553025, 742914, 488732, 722955, 739745, 801851, 165281, 231281, 963794, 148082, 106446, 195149, 305016, 646772, 312280, 001228, 000071.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Former Barry Comprehensive School students now studying at the Cardiff & Vale College returned to talk to current students.

Careers day at Barry school

RECENTLY, Barry Comprehensive School's main hall was filled with companies, businesses and organisations welcoming students to the annual careers fair.

Hundreds of students visited the stalls to find out about the opportunities in the workplace and in further education.

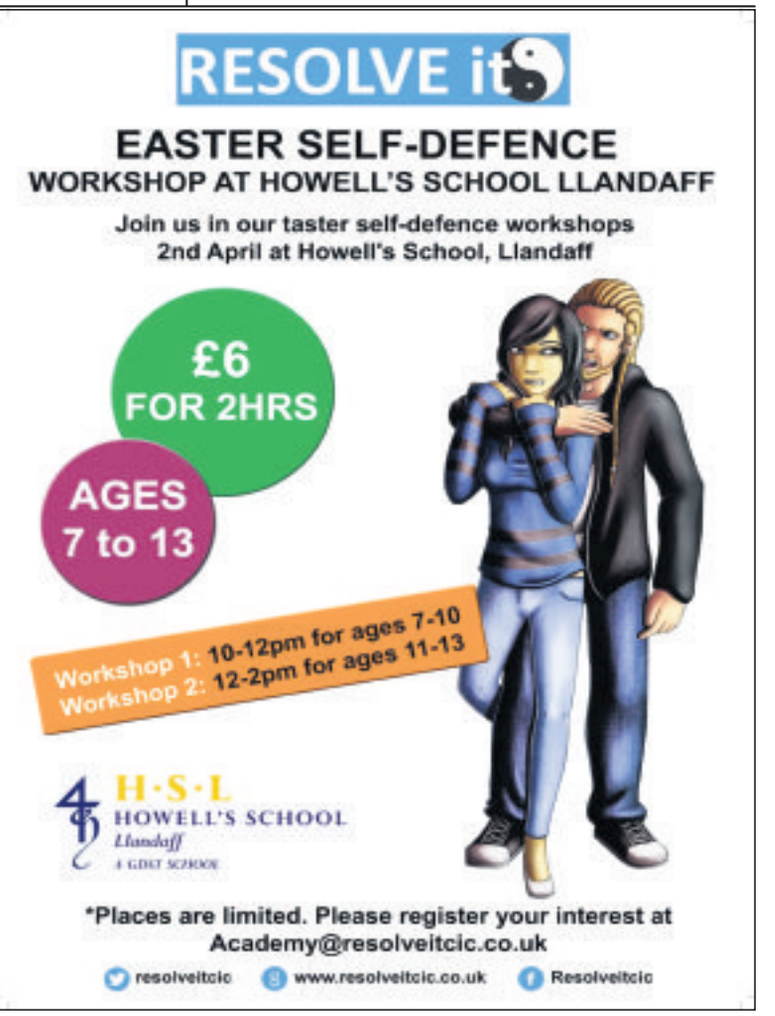
Business visitors ranged from the global to the local and included the Royal Navy, HSBC, Keepmoat, Dow Corning, CITB, British Telecom and Lafarge Tarmac. Other organisations included Vale Volunteer Bureau, ACT, RTPI and Cardiff and Vale UHB Dental Nursing.

Welsh Universities were also keen to let students know what they had to offer, with stands from Aberystwyth University, Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Swansea Metropolitan University and the University of Wales (Trinity) being very popular.

Cardiff and Vale College also provided information on their degree courses, including aircraft engineering.

The school is grateful to all the attendees for their time and commitment to showing students some of the huge range opportunities available to them.

Dental Nursing proved an interesting new career option for many students.



VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'The young people know what matters in the Vale'

ON Monday, I welcomed a number of sixth form students from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive in Barry to Westminster, to discuss my role in Parliament.

I was delighted to welcome the group, studying for the Welsh Baccalaureate, to show them how Parliament runs on a day-to-day basis.

The students I welcomed are incredibly knowledgeable, motivated and want to shape their own future.

I am consistently impressed with how much they care about the future of Barry and the Vale – after all, students need good, well-paid jobs, housing and opportunities.

The most positive feedback I have had from local residents in regard to the regeneration of Barry Island has been from the next generation.

They can see the potential in the area, and how significant investment in the largest town in Wales can be a catalyst – I completely agree with them.

Meeting school pupils of all ages has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role as MP in the last five years. I have had schools from every area of the Vale visit Westminster, and I know that pupils have found it incredibly rewarding.

Vale MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

I think it is so important to allow youngsters from an early age to learn about how elected representatives make decisions that have a direct impact on them.

On the subject of decisions that impact local pupils and parents and teachers, proposals are being digested for a major shake-up of schools in Barry.

I have met a large number of anxious parents who have raised a number of important points about whether the plans have been fully considered by local decision-makers.

Tonight, a public meeting is being held at the Ship Hotel in Barry to discuss school plans.

I am encouraging parents to come along and make the case to ensure that any changes to schools will ensure that the welfare of pupils, at such an important time in their lives, is the absolute priority.

We are now less than 50 days away from the general election, and Monday sees the dissolution of Parliament.

I will spend the next few weeks on the campaign trail, and will see many friendly faces that I have met in every community.

May I use this opportunity to thank all of the individuals, locally elected colleagues and communities for their support over the last five years.

PACT meetings around the Vale

***ILLTYD** – meet your local officers at Cafe No 5, High Street, Barry, on March 27 between 10.30am and 12 noon.*

***DINAS POWYS PACT**, Youlden House, Fairoaks, Dinas Powys on March 30 at 7pm.*

***GIBBONSDOWN PACT**, Gibbonsdown Residents' Board, Coychurch Rise, Barry, on March 31 at 10.30am.*

***BUTTRILLS PACT,** Barry Town Council Offices, Holton Road, Barry, April 9 at 6.30pm.*

***CASTLELAND PACT**, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, April 13 at 7pm.*

I LOVE Rhoose Library

Public meeting

Thursday 2 April, at 7.30pm

Lesser Hall, Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose (side entrance)

Vale Council plans to ignore local wishes and force us to run our own volunteer-led library otherwise they will close it. Come along to the meeting to discuss the options and next steps for the campaign.

What's next for Rhoose Library?

Website: saverhooselibrary.wordpress.com

email: saverhooselibrary@gmail.com

Save Rhoose Library 2014

'Why I say Barry is the better option' GEM reader

FOR those of your correspondents last week who seem to want to inflict more housing on Cowbridge, rather than Barry, I would offer the following facts, which would make the Barry option seem to be the better one.

Cowbridge does have a bypass, but thanks to the incompetence of the Glamorgan Planning Department at the beginning of the 1960s, all traffic travelling from the A48 to Llandow/Llantwit has to use either the main street through Cowbridge, or the narrow road through Llysworney.

Cowbridge has a bus service – every 30 minutes to either Cardiff or Bridgend – adult return fare Cowbridge to Cardiff £7 (First Group plc web site) for a 45 minute journey.

Cowbridge used to have a railway track until Dr Beeching's report scheduled it for closure (the last passenger train ran on Saturday, November 24 1951) and the rails were lifted in 1964. While the line of the old track can still be seen in parts between Cowbridge and Pontyclun where it joined the main Cardiff-Bridgend line someone went and built houses on the old station site.

Cowbridge gridlock for morning commuter traffic starts at Waterton Cross roundabout (Bridgend), Culverhouse Cross (Cardiff) or Brynsadler and Pendoylan (M4).

Cowbridge (still) hasn't got a Post Office – Barry has at least five.

Barry has 13 bus services listed for travel between Barry and Cardiff and Bridgend, or within Barry, and a choice of three railway stations (four if you count Barry Island) with a train service to Cardiff running every 15 minutes – adult return fare Cardiff to Barry £5 (National Rail Enquiries Journey Planner), 30-minute ride. So if you have a problem with Barry being "gridlocked", why not let 'the train take the strain'? Even Rhoose has a railway station.

As for the potential south Wales metro link? Cogan, Barry, Barry Island and Rhoose (Cardiff Airport) all get mentions; perhaps if they hadn't built the houses and fire station, they could have added Cowbridge via the old Cowbridge Railway track bed, rather than leaving it out altogether.

Unfortunately, resurrecting the old Cowbridge and Aberthaw railway route is not a viable proposition either, again due to house building. Perhaps we could persuade them to try a Crossrail type tunnel from The Tumble to Cowbridge? (I'm not holding my breath...)

By the way, there are still a couple of mounting blocks in Cowbridge to make it easier to get on your horse…

John Upstone, Llanblethian.

SPRING MUSIC

A SPRING time concert of popular music, with special guests Barry Male Voice Choir, will be presented by CAOS on Saturday, April 25 at Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road, Rhoose. Tickets from Rhoose Spar, £5 or on the door.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 5) ORDER 2014

1. On the 24th March 2015 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 30th March 2015 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 5) Order 2014"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 30th March 2015 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Order is to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

Proposed No Waiting At Any Time – Insert New Plan No U40

Heol St. Cattwg, Pendoylan

On the north side of the road, from a point approximately 9 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly direction then around the bend in a north westerly direction for a distance of approximately 23 metres.

On the south side of the road, from a point approximately 9 metres east of its junction with Pendoylan Road, in a south westerly direction around the bend for a distance of approximately 17 metres.

Dated this 26th day of March 2015.

M. E. Punter
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,
Wenvoe CF5 6AA

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2015

GORCHYMYN (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIO) (RHIF 5) (GWAHARDD MANNAU AROS, LLWYTHO A PHARCIO A CHYFYNGU AR FANNAU AROS LLWYTHO A PHARCIO)

1. Ar 24 Mawrth 2015, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53, a 124 a Rhan IV o Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoli Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a phob pŵer galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn y mae ei effaith wedi'i disgrifio isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 30 Mawrth 2015 neu bryd bynnag y bydd yr holl arwyddion a marciau ffordd yn barod. Fe'i hadwaenir fel 'Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygio) (Rhif 5) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2014'.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r cynllun sy'n dangos y mannau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffech ddadlau'n erbyn dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpariaethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod bŵer i'w gweithredu, neu am y tybiwch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferynnau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 30 Mawrth 2015 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

Bydd y Gorchymyn Rheoli Traffig canlynol yn cael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Gorfodi Sifil) (Gwahardd Mannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio a Chyfyngu ar Fannau Aros, Llwytho a Pharcio) 2013 Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Cynnig ynglŷn â Gwahardd Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg – Cynhwyser y Rhif Cynllun Newydd U40

Heol St. Cattwg, Pendeulwyn

Ar ochr ogleddol y ffordd, o fan sydd oddeutu 9 medr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd â Pendoylan Road, ymlaen tua'r de orllewin, o amgylch y tro ac ymlaen wedyn tua'r gogledd orllewin am ryw 23 medr.

Ar ochr ddeheuol y ffordd, o fan sydd oddeutu 9 medr i'r dwyrain o'r gyffordd â Pendoylan Road, o amgylch y tro ac ymlaen tua'r de orllewin am ryw 17 medr.

Dyddiedig 26 Mawrth 2015.

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau,
Gwenfô CF5 6AA

Patch leads the way to Pentyrch

GERAINT and his sheepdog Patch played host to five female walkers from the Penarth and District Ramblers at Pentyrch on an overcast but dry morning.

Setting off through fields containing new lambs, through Craig-y-Parc with its tall straight conifers partially obscuring the view over Canada Lake, they strode on to the outskirts of Creigiau.

Following the old disused railway track where wild garlic was peeping through and scarlet elf cup fungi decorated fallen branches, they reached lovely woodland at Ty'n y Coed.

Gradually climbing up to the trig point on Garth Hill, walking the ridgeway past Welsh Black cattle, they dropped steeply onto woodland tracks leading down to Gwaelod-y-Garth.

Muddy paths and wooden footbridges led them through Craig Rhiw'r Ceiliog to a wooden picnic bench for lunch and, descending through the woods, the turrets of Castell Coch were just visible as they reached the small hamlet of Georgetown.

Then, re-entering woodland and crossing the Nant Cwmllwydrew stream with its pretty falls, a boardwalk led them up through Coed y Bedw and crossing a field and the busy Heol Goch, a steep climb up the hillside led them back through houses to their start point.

Train first and then walks

A RELAXING train journey from Barry, Penarth and Cardiff was enjoyed by the 10 walkers who joined William for his latest adventure, the 15-mile trek along the eastern section of the long distance Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk.

Leaving Lisvane station and passing through the delightful Parc Cefn Onn, they climbed gradually up to the ridgeway before heading east through lovely old beech woods filled with the sound of birdsong.

Stopping for refreshments in Coed Coesau Whips, they noted that during World War Two, members of the Special Duties Auxiliary Unit manned the camouflaged secret wireless bunker that has been uncovered, before heading steeply downhill and across muddy fields on their journey to the ruined Ruperra Castle, built by Sir Thomas Morgan in 1626..

From Coed Craig Ruperra they descended steeply to Draethen and, passing the lovely old farmhouse of Rhyd-y-Gwern crossed the River Rhymney into Machen, before the long pull up through woodland to the highest point of the walk Mynydd Machen, where they paused for lunch in warm sunshine.

Then, descending past a massive spoil tip and through ancient beech and oak woods above the Sirhowy Valley, they followed the ridgeway back across Mynydd Y Grug Common towards Ystrad Mynach.

A narrow track led them into fields and, dropping down to Maesycwmmer and crossing the Rhymney Valley by means of the spectacular 16-arched viaduct, they made their way to Hengoed Station for the journey home.

On March 28, you are invited to join a rail ramble leaving Barry at 8.45am and Penarth at 8.47am to arrive at Cardiff Central in order to catch the 9.18am train to Pontyclun, followed by the 11-mile moderate linear walk back to Taff's Well for the journey home; contact William on 01446 747239.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Funding boost for Communities First

THE future of the Vale Council-led anti-poverty programme Barry Communities First (*above*) has been secured up until April 2016, after just over half a million pounds in additional funding was announced by the Welsh Government.

The aim is to "improve the health, prosperity and learning" of residents in Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown wards of Barry.

It has put together projects which include helping job seekers to find work (*right*), helping year-6 students with the transition to year-7, and helping people to lose weight.

SCOUT GROUPS IN NEED OF HELP

LAST weekend, the seven Scout groups in Penarth, Dinas Powys, Sully and Llandough joined together to try and recruit more adult volunteers.

Said Julian Jordan, District Commissioner: "Scouting is open to young people aged six to 25. We currently are growing faster then we have since the 1970s. Locally, we have over 500 young people meeting on a weekly basis.

"To keep offering this adventure we need more volunteers, from leaders and helpers on a weekly basis, to trustees and those who can support us on an ad hoc basis."

Contact info@penarthanddistrict.org.uk or 0330 330 1907 or find Penarth and District Scouts on Facebook or Twitter.

STAINED GLASS FESTIVAL

THE fourth stained glass window festival takes place at St Paul's Church, Pontyclun, on June 27-28.

Everyone is invited to take part by making a 'window' out of recycled material. It can be any size. It can be knitted, quilted, made of bubble wrap, pasta, plastic etc. Let your imagination take over.

Bring your finished window to St Paul's Church on Friday, June 26, between 2pm and 6pm, where it will be put in place ready for the start of the festival the following day. All proceeds from the festival will go to church funds.

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

CLEANING UP AND CLEARING OUT WASTE

YOUR letters columns have recently contained comments on two types of waste, animal and household.

Firstly, there have been letters from people objecting to horses defecating on the highway.

They should instead think about going out with a bucket and spade to collect what is excellent manure for rhubarb!

The second subject is more serious and concerns the so-called 'Civic Amenity' site at the old Llandow airfield.

I largely agree with the sentiments expressed by a correspondent in last week's issue.

The location is not well signposted – the access road is a series of potholes, as it has been for years, and the layout of the site itself leads to congestion as car owners struggle, either to heave their items to the height necessary to deposit them in the containers, or to drag them up the rickety steps.

I am 20 years older than Guy Howell Jones and without the kind intervention of one of the site staff, I would have had to take my rubbish back home.

May I suggest that the Vale Council think about bringing the standard of the site up to that found in neighbouring authorities?

That might even reduce fly-tipping.

Edgar Lloyd, Cowbridge.

COUNCIL'S FRUSTRATION OVER CEMETERY APPROACH

I AM writing, as the Vale Council's responsible cabinet member, in response to recent letters in The GEM about the use of land at Cemetery Approach in Barry.

I thought GEM readers may appreciate some clarity on where we are with the site's redevelopment into a community garden.

We are committed to redeveloping the site as a community garden, but the cost of doing this is considerable. We therefore cannot do this on our own.

Our plan had been to dedicate the public open space at Cemetery Approach as a Centenary Field. As well as being a fitting memorial for those who lost their lives in the First World War, we had hoped that this would allow us to access funding from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Scheme, run by Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion.

Unfortunately, despite submitting two very strong applications, we have not beensuccessfulcin gaining the funding that we need. We are now seeking to work in partnership with Barry Town Council to deliver the community garden together.

Both councils are keen to move forward with the project and to create a relaxing and pleasant space for local people, as well as visitors to the cemetery, to enjoy.

The obstacles that we have encountered so far have proved to be greatly frustrating.

However, this has only strengthened our resolve to deliver the open green space that local residents desire.

While talks with Barry Town Council are still at an early stage, I hope to soon be able to announce a new way forward for the site.

Coun Gwyn John, ***cabinet member for visible and leisure services.***

'Plaid says no to austerity budget'

IT was quite depressing to learn that the cash Tony Blair donated to 100 Labour constituencies has been accepted in the Vale.

Quickly we can see the result, with leaflets being delivered not by supporters, but by commercial organisations and newspaper adverts.

Presumably, the decline in people actually prepared to work on a voluntary basis for the party makes this necessary. It's interesting to learn that there are still Blair admirers in the Labour Party.

I'm proud that the Plaid campaign will be funded entirely from small donations from the people of the Vale.

Labour, under tragically weak leadership, have failed to exploit the Government's failures. They voted to support Tory spending plans for 2015. Then Labour MPs crept through the voting lobbies to support the Tory austerity charter for the next Parliament.

Plaid will not support an austerity budget – irrespective of whether it is the Blue Tories or the Red Tories that introduce it.

Nic Hodges, Barry
(*Plaid Cymru councillor*).

'Back open space plan for school'

PLANS are being considered to hand over some open space in Barry to a local school and local views are sought over the proposal.

The space in question is between Hannah Street, Court Road and Commercial Road and although always under the remit of education, it has been managed by the Vale parks service.

In recent years, the open space had been gated and the only access has been to local residents who live around the space. In a bid for the parks department to make savings, as part of the cuts programme, it is now intended to pass it over to Jenner Park Primary school.

The benefits of handing the open space over to Jenner School would mean increased opportunities for outdoor activities for these pupils and it would also be made more secure.

I hope everyone will back the proposal.

Richard Bertin, Barry.

Thank you, kind sirs!

I WOULD like to say 'thank you' to the gentleman who handed my handbag in to Morrisons on Saturday, February 28. Also to another gentleman who found my purse and handed it in to the police – again, many thanks to you both.

Cynthia Booker, Barry.

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Jenner Park pupils enjoy 'bake-off'

JENNER PARK school children enjoyed a fun-packed day in between lessons. The school reported: "Pupils enjoyed baking in the classroom and Mr Morris judged the competition."

PAULA TAKES OVER AS MANAGER AT THE MARIE CURIE HOSPICE

FORMER Marie Curie Nurse Paula Elson, from Kenfig Hill, has been appointed as hospice manager of the charity's Cardiff and the Vale hospice and will help lead nurses, carers and other staff in providing specialist care to around 600 in-patients, 870 out-patients and 2,000 day care attendees every year.

After training at the West Glamorgan School of Nursing, she developed a keen interest in working with people living with a terminal illness. She took up a role as a palliative care bank nurse at Y Bythyn Newydd in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, as well as becoming Sister of Ty Bryngwyn Hospice in Llanelli.

During this time, Paula also worked as a part-time Marie Curie nurse, providing care for people at home.

Eventually she went on to become community team leader with the St David's Foundation in Gwent, and also held the position of community team leader at the Ty Olwen specialist palliative care unit serving Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot.

Among her other career highlights was a seven year stint with the Royal College of Nursing, working with local health boards in Wales to develop clinical leaders, who has headed up the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice in Penarth for three months in an interim capacity, said: "I've always seen Marie Curie as epitomising fantastic palliative care, and I want the hospice to mirror this and continue providing great care for local people. I hope to strengthen and build on the foundations we already have here so we can continue to deliver the high quality care people need and deserve.

"Our job is to care for people with terminal illnesses and make a difference for them and their family at a time that they can't repeat, and I think we're really privileged to be a part of that. For me, coming into this role means I can influence things and make a difference for those people."

Andrew Wilson-Mouasher, divisional general manager for Marie Curie, said: "Paula brings a wealth of experience in nursing, specialist palliative care, nursing leadership and health service management, and I am thrilled to have her on board as hospice manager at the Cardiff and the Vale Hospice."

Paula was born in Maesteg and lives in Kenfig Hill with her partner, Chris.

For more information about the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice, visit www.mariecurie.org.uk or call 02920 426000.

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Saints through to Cup semi-finals

SAINTS brushed aside Railway Wanderers in the Divisional Cup but needed extra time to do so, the final score 4-3.

Saints took the lead early after striker Darren Townsend beat the offside trap, rounded the keeper and slotted the ball into the empty net.

Railway equalised after a counter attack, soaking up Saints attacks and an early cross found the Railway winger to side foot home.

Barry were knocking on the door and rightfully took the lead again when David A Evans headed the ball home after a goal mouth scramble from a corner. At half-time the Saints were deservedly in the lead.

In the second half the Saints came flying out of the blocks and Darren Townsend added his second, scoring a half-volley from just inside the area.

Saints then fell asleep and allowed the Railway back into the game. A ball played down the line to the winger saw him square a pass across the goal for an easy tap in.

Railway earned a corner moments later and, with Saints failing to clear their lines, a deflected shot fell to the Railway striker to sweep home.

With 15 minutes to go the Railway were reduced to 10 men after the midfielder verbally abused the referee.

Saints pushed for the winner and were awarded a penalty. Michael Evans stepped up but his spot kick was saved.

The first half of extra time flew by with both teams barely having chances on goal, but the second half was all Saints and after dominating the game they grabbed the winning goal after a sweeping move.

The ball fell to Nathan Williams who played a high ball around the corner to Townsend. The keeper came rushing out but Townsend headed the ball past the stranded keeper to send the Saints into the semi-finals.

GL

BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for March 23:

1st Marion and David Stevenson 58.75%, 2nd= Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft 58.33%, and Jane Brook and David Barwood 58.33%.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00134/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition of a single garage and two garden sheds and the erection of a two storey two bedroom detached house on land currently used as a garden.
Location:/Lleoliad:	2, Railway Cottages, Grove Road, Llandow
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Llandow
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00234/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Two storey extension to rear
Location:/Lleoliad:	17, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00283/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Development of 79 houses and associated open space vehicular and pedestrian access landscaping and infrastructure, including the demolition of Emmaville
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land to the East of St. Nicholas
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	St. Nicholas

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00086/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Variation of Condition 11 of planning permission ref. 2012/00937/FUL to allow occupation of 20 units, to connect to the public sewerage system, prior to the solution identified in the Hydraulic Modelling Assessment being completed.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land south of the Railway line, Trem Echni, Rhoose Point, Rhoose

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00242/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed lodge building on redundant rural buildings
Location:/Lleoliad:	Brackendene, Burdonshill Lane, Wenvoe

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 26 March, 2015

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Spring COWBRIDGE Feature

Spring is the ideal time to see what Cowbridge has to offer

by PHILIP IRWIN

Fun Foundations' Gold Snack Award

FUN FOUNDATIONS Day Nursery is celebrating the Gold Healthy Snack Award Accreditation!

The initiative was introduced to improve diets of the children attending nursery and consists of four areas namely:

- An individualised snack policy.
- The provision of healthy snacks including offering a wide selection of fruit.
- A positive environment – including children sitting at tables with staff eating same snacks.
- Good hygiene practice, with all children and staff washing hands prior to meal times.

The nursery has also been recognised as providing activities that incorporate play and food, such as growing vegetables.

THE arrival of spring brings a sense of anticipation to just about everyone – it is a time of year when the dark winter days seem much further away and suddenly getting out and about seems much more attractive.

And right at the top of a list of places to visit in the area has to be Cowbridge, with its very own mix of history, distinctive shops and cafe society.

It's not a town where massive developments take place, but there is a constant rota of change and adjustment, whether that be the work that civic societies do around the town to enhance it, or on the retail front where new companies decide that the town is the place to do business.

There was good news this week when the Vale Council decided to back a scheme to retain the town's cattle market A number of funding hurdles have to be cleared, but around the existing site could be a new market hall, housing a number of small shops, a community café and a covered open space.

The cattle market, of course, is now a slight misnomer, as it has been confined to sheep for a number of years, but it is still a feature of every Tuesday morning in the town, as farmers bring their livestock to market.

The market plan is a development that the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade is delighted with. The chairman, Alun John, told The GEM that the town had enjoyed a busy Christmas – perhaps because customers preferred the relaxed atmosphere to the hustle and bustle of a city shopping environment – and now traders were looking forward to the traditional increase in retail activity during March, April and May.

Cowbridge's compact layout, with small side streets leading to unexpected courtyards and alleyways, means that something new is often just around the corner.

What's more, the town has such a wide range of places where you can stop and take a break, that it is easy to do things at your own pace and stay relaxed.

Whether you want a coffee, a snack, a pub meal, or *haute cuisine*, there is something for everyone in Cowbridge.

One relative newcomer to the town is Beagles, in the Old Mason's Yard, which straddles the river, just along from the town hall.

Owned and managed by Claire Donovan, the store is approaching its first birthday in the town, and she is looking forward to events, such as the May Fayre (on May 4) and later in the month, The Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival (May 24-25).

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

ABOVE: Dave Shewring is the manager at Broadleaf's Eastgate showroom.

PLENTY TO SEE AT JON IAN...

JON IAN is celebrating 24 years on Cowbridge High street and this year it's certainly not holding back, as the amazing collection of shoes, bags and accessories is proving to be a real show stopper!

As Jon Ian is now concentrating all its designer labels under one roof, you can really appreciate the number of styles that are available, with many designs using different textures and colours to create that very Italian look.

Also, there is a fantastic colour palette of wedding shoes and bags that manage to complete every outfit for that special day. Jon Ian will be continuing to sell Dubarry shoes and accessories in the main store.

Jon Ian sale shop closes on Saturday, so call in for that last-minute bargain – ***an opportunity not to be missed !***

Hopkins Law opens up to the community

HOPKINS LAW is opening its doors to small businesses and community groups by offering their meeting room to such enterprises for free.

Liane Farthing, director, said: "We appreciate that not everybody wants to conduct their meetings in the local coffee shop and that sometimes a quiet space is what's needed – which is where our meeting room can be invaluable."

The offer of a meeting room follows Hopkins Law's initiative to offer free Wills and Probate advice in a clinic style format, which has proved to be a winning formula with local residents.

The meeting room is free to anybody who wants to use it – just phone the office on 01446 774151 and find out when it's available.

Meeting up?

If you're a small business or a community group and you need a meeting room, come and use ours. Free, gratis and for nothing! We like to be able to help....

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Spring COWBRIDGE Feature

TOWN CATERS FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

ABOVE: Esther Hitchcock of Jon Ian, with some of the new season stock.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

Claire's business ethos is to offer a mix of product that is not found in the chain stores, and also local produce, and she is particularly passionate about the need to support local suppliers.

Offering an extremely eclectic mix of items under the overall banner of 'country store' ,Beagles is definitely a local business that offers the casual browser plenty of choice - allied to personal service.

A while ago, the adjoining cafe became available, and Claire snapped it up to open Cowbridge's first creperie – offering both savoury and sweet pancakes – and the initial reaction to this new venture has been extremely encouraging.

Claire said: "You can have your own crepe cooked in front of you to your own specification. It's also a great way of feeding a family on a day out!"

Also in the Old Mason's Yard is La Mercerie, owned by Jean Tait, an Aladdin's Cave for any knitting enthusiast, with a huge range of yarns, buttons and haberdashery.

Although it looks at first glance to be a typical local shop, Jean also serves a wider community, with customers coming from Bridgend, Neath and Swansea because of the depth of stock.

Knitting groups have sprung up, and two meet in the shop on a Wednesday, while Thursday is "troubleshooter day" when knitters can pop in for advice from an expert on any tricky project that they are working on.

Examples of work by some of the knitting group members are on sale in the shop, and Jean also sells knitting patterns, originally handed in to the nearby Red Cross shop, on behalf of the charity.

Another relative newcomer to the town is Sally Stephenson at the Pencil Case, Eastgate. Sally spotted a gap in the market and has set out to make the shop a must for stationery products for all ages, with an emphasis on the younger market.

She insists that The Pencil case is another example of a local shop that can undercut the big city stores on popular product lines, while offering popular brands to its customers.

Since opening last year, she has extended the product range, adding more school uniforms, making it "a one-stop shop for school age children".

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

ABOVE: Jean Tait with hand-knitted garments at La Mercerie, Penny Lane, in Old Mason's Yard.

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Spring COWBRIDGE Feature

See what Cowbridge can offer...

Amy Theophilus of Fun Foundations.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28)

An addition to the range has been an 'age birthday card' stand, offering cards from ages one to 100, inclusive. Whether you need a 37-year-old or an 88-year-old, sally can supply one!

Jon Ian, specialising in shoes and fashion accessories, is owned by Esther Hitchcock, and is far from a newcomer to the town, having been here for 24 years. Add to that the 43 years of trading in the Morgan Arcade in Cardiff, and you have a considerable retail experience to draw on.

Esther said: "The start of a new season is always exciting, and this year has made a very successful beginning."

As usual, Esther has been to Milan to source the latest Italian fashions and she explained: "This year, the colours are really beautiful, and some of the dual colour combinations are really striking.

"After last year's warm summer, people are champing at the bit to get out and buy for a new season."

Another new arrival in Cowbridge is a Welsh manufacturer, Broadleaf, who have grown to be one of the UK's leading real wood specialists.

Dave Shewring is the manager of their Eastgate premises, and is delighted to show off the company's range of beautiful wood floors, doors and joinery – all made in Wales and with an enviable reputation for quality, value and trend leading design.

After a long search for suitable premises, the company finally moved into Cowbridge in October last year.

Vanessa Garrett, one of Broadleaf's founders, told The GEM: "With its reputation for quality independent shopping and easy access from both Cardiff and the Vale, Cowbridge is an ideal location for our flagship Welsh showroom and we are thrilled to finally be here!"

Norma Davies Opticians opened in December in the town, and can be found in the Old Mason's Yard. Charlotte Lloyd-Davies is the manager and she explained that the company was on the move to the east, as its existing branches are in Llandysul, Carmarthen and Morriston.

She said: "Cowbridge is an attractive town, and it puts us in the market place for people who buy our products and use our services.

"The company has been in business for 40 years, and we offer a full product range, including an extensive range of designer frames, contact lenses, and high quality clinical care."

Another trader who has found Cowbridge a great place to do business is Amy Theophilus, who runs Fun Foundations Nursery.

Amy said: "I used to teach in Y Bont Faen Primary School, and about five years ago I noticed a gap in the market for a nursery".

Sally Stephenson of The Pencil Case.

It took a year to find suitable premises, but now the business is well established. For Amy, Cowbridge is a perfect town for families. Many of her customers moved to the town for just that reason, and they find it an ideal place to relax after dropping off or picking up their offspring.

Amy added: "It's ideal for the children, with parks, playgrounds and the library as well".

Finally, it was only last week that the latest new shop opened in the town, and behind the smart frontage of Emmaus lies a remarkable story.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 30)

Beagles country store's new creperie, which spans the river.

Get a trim (and more) at Marleys!

MARLEY'S has been an established business for 18 years and has earned a reputation as a local, friendly barbers.

No appointment is needed and all styles catered for. Marley's is a place to unwind and relax, offering friendly service and hot towel shaves - a true gentlemen's retreat.

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Whilst treatment is completely confidential, a few of my clients have kindly offered to provide testimonials for their treatment programmes with me. They are willing to be contacted and I remain very grateful for their willingness to share their experiences.

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The town to visit...

NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

The charity is well established in Europe, and tackles homelessness by opening houses where people get back on their feet by working together for the charity.

Known as companions, they use the experience to get back into the job market and start a new life.

There are many Emmaus houses in Europe, and there are now 23 in England (Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall is a patron), but the Welsh branch of Emmaus is opening its first (in Bridgend) later this year.

Funds raised by the charity go to meet running costs of the companion houses.

The Cowbridge shop, which looks extremely classy, was opened by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Peter Knapp.

Tom Clarke is the director for Emmaus South Wales and he said: "We are delighted to be making Cowbridge part of the Emmaus story.

"Later this year, we will open our first house in Wales and take in 23 companions. Emmaus has always been an organisation that is closely connected to the community, and we welcome any people in the Vale who would like to volunteer in our new Cowbridge shop."

The joint shop managers, Teresa Wood and Jeane Wright, told The GEM that they had enjoyed an "excellent opening weekend", and had received a "warm welcome" from townspeople in Cowbridge.

Spring COWBRIDGE Feature

Shampan for authentic high quality Indian food

SHAMPAN Indian Restaurant and Takeaway has been around since 1983. Recently, it received a Certificate of Excellence for 2014/2015 and was a nominated restaurant for the Tiffin Cup in 2014.

When you look at our restaurant from afar, it would appear more like a house than a bistro: the brick walls, large windows, and bright lights say that there is more to offer once you come inside. As you enter the front door, you are greeted by colourful lights and a warm welcome from our staff.

At Shampan, we offer our guests the highest quality and authentic Indian food. Our award-winning and world-class chef makes sure to capture the rich and flavourful Indian cuisine, from its aroma up to its taste, down to the very last bite.

Our menu is filled with all the dishes that you are looking for – be it chicken, lamb or prawns. Whether you come to have a quick snack or a full meal, we are ready to serve your gastronomic desires.

More importantly, we value client feedback. Aside from making our dishes delicious, we make sure that every part of our place passes the standards of hygiene. Our loyal customers for the past three decades can attest to the quality of food and service that only Shampan can offer.

Call us today for a reservation, or for more information!

Shampan Indian Restaurant & Takeaway.
70 Eastgate, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan;
Telephone 01446 771682.

Sophie Davies, optical assistant at Norma Davies Opticians. (See page 29).

Step into spring with Nordic Walk!

BAREFOOT Studio is running a 'Learn to Nordic Walk' workshop on April 11 from the studio in Llandow.

"Nordic walking is a fantastic way to get fit and enjoy our lovely Welsh countryside.

"In this two-hour workshop, you will learn how to use the poles to get the most benefit to your fitness.

Afterwards, you can buy poles and walk independently or join one of our weekly classes.

"And if you prefer to exercise indoors, check out one of our Pilates group classes, or Pilates reformer sessions.

"We offer one to one or one to two reformer sessions using a range of Pilates equipment. For more information, call the studio on ***01446 775772.***"

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COWBRIDGE EYE CLINIC

WE are a family run practice with three branches throughout the Vale – in Cowbridge, Barry, and Rhoose.

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NEW

MAIN STREET, BARRY
Period property, first floor apartment, kitchen/breakfast, shower room, stairs rising to 2nd floor, double bedroom, living room, no chain. ER=C.
£69,950

NEW

WINDSOR COURT APARTMENTS, BARRY
Placed on the 3rd floor, one bedroomed apartment, approx 554.08 sq ft. Kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, family bathroom, lift, gym and residents lounge.
£99,950

NEW

SHERBOURNE CLOSE, BARRY
Detached dwelling, cul de sac position, living/diner, conservatory, WC cloakroom, 3 bedrooms, larger than average garden, driveway. ER=D.
£217,950

NEW

HEOL PANT Y CELYN, BARRY
Semi detached, 3 bedrooms, far reaching sea views, option of extending, (subject to usual planning consent), modern fitted kitchen & bathroom, ground floor bathroom, viewing recommended. ER=D.
£134,950

NEW SSTC in 24 hrs

GELYN Y CLER, BARRY
Well presented, modern elevated, mid terraced, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, cul de sac position, ER=C.
£134,950

NEW

VALE STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, 2 double bedrooms, through living room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, no chain. West end location.
£109,950

NEW

BELL STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, stunning presentation, renovated throughout, 2 bedrooms, living room leading to dining room. Upstairs bathroom. UPVC DG, GCH via combi.
£119,950

NEW

ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY
Spacious family dwelling, mid terraced Victorian, ground flr: 3 reception rooms, kitchen, garden room. 1st flr: living room (or bedroom 1) bedroom 2, utility (bedroom 3). 2nd flr: master bedroom (ensuite) garage (currently an office)
£224,950

NEW

SEAPOINT, BARRY
Lower ground floor apartment, stunning sea views across channel, 2 bedrooms, double doors leading to balcony, with balustrading, no chain.
£124,950

NEW PRICE

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Detached bungalow, placed in private road, 3 bedrooms, WC cloak, living, dining, secluded rear garden, backing onto Porthkerry, driveway/garage.
£289,950

NEW PRICE

CHESTERFIELD ST, BARRY
End of terraced, 3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, GCH & UPVC D/G, enclosed rear garden, close to schools, shops
£105,000

NEW PRICE

CASTLELAND ST, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, 2 reception rooms, feature fireplace in living room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, recently installed combi boiler. No chain. ER=E.
£118,000

NEW PRICE

TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE
Mid terraced traditional, sea views from the 1st floor, living/diner, side access, 3 bedrooms, spacious family bathroom, larger than average garden, no chain. ER=E.
£149,950

NEW PRICE

PENCOEDTRE ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms (ensuite), family bathroom, raised decked sun terraced, lower laid to lawn area, ER=D.
£125,000

NEW PRICE

RICHARD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, amidst all amenities, through living/dining room, replacement fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, first floor spacious bathroom, low maintenance garden, no chain. ER=D.
£106,950

NEW PRICE

PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY
Elevated mid terraced traditional, 2 seperate reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, first floor bathrooms, well presented throughout, no chain. ER=D.
£136,500

SALISBURY ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted mid terraced traditional dwelling, through living room, 3 bedrooms to 1st floor, fourth bedroom to attic (full regs) enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthceri Park. ER=D.
£155,950

HERBERT STREET, BARRY
Traditional semi detached, well presented, 2 double bedrooms, modern fitted kitchen, living room/dining room, driveway & garage.
£134,950

WESTON STREET, BARRY
Extensive works via local authority in 1999. replacement roof, re-wired, replastered floors & ceilings. 2014 replacement cental heating. mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed rear courtyard. ER=D.
£112,950

MAES LINDYS, RHOOSE
A stunning modern detached, persimmon built 'Wenvoe' style, living room, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, utility-integral garage, 4 bed (ensuite), enclosed rear garden, single garage, viewing essential, ER=C.
£239,950

GERDDI MARGARET, BARRY
Second floor apartment, 1 bedroom, designated parking, open plan lounge/kitchen, security door entry, well presented, ER=C.
£84,950

TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY
Substantial end of terrace, original features, ground floor living room, study, cloak, sitting room, dining room & kitchen. 1st floor 4 double bedrooms & bathroom. 2nd floor hobby room. Well presented throughout. ER=E.
£204,950

JENNER ROAD, BARRY
Garden apartment, ground floor, 1 bed, well presented throughout, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, garden to the front, level rear garden to rear, no chain.
£97,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted mid, through living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, double garage approx 18ftx16ft. No chain. ER=E.
£145,950

WOODLANDS ROAD, BARRY
Period terraced property, spacious living accommodation, through living room, sitting room, 4 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, original features throughout, no chain. ER=D.
£159,950

GREENACRES, BARRY
End of link terraced, modern build, 3 bedrooms, living room opening to conservatory, enclosed rear garden, parking to side.
£137,950

PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY
Spacious living, original features, centralised staircase, 3 seperate reception rooms, 4 bed, WC shower room, utility room, far reaching seaviews over Bristol Channel, tiered garden to rear. ER=D.
£184,950

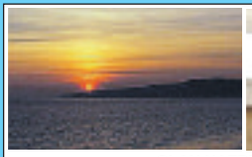
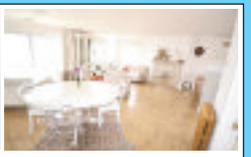
ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, WC cloakroom, 5 bedrooms, GCH throughout, partial sea views, garage with lane access, well presented. ER=D.
£214,950

HATCH COTTAGE, BARRY
Built in 18th century, detached cottage, retaining original features, 2 bedrooms, 2 receptions, raised decked sun terrace, detached hobby room, off road parking, very well presented.
£164,950

THE BEECHES, BARRY
Substantial detached dwelling, originally a care home. Ground flr: 3 reception rooms, kitchen, office, WC & shower room. 3 bedrooms, laundry. 2nd flr: 12 rooms, 9 WCs, seperate bathroom. No chain, vacant, UPVC DG, GCH.
£370,000

FONMON ROAD, RHOOSE
Traditional dorma detached bungalow. Ground floor: lounge, bathroom, 2 bedrooms, study. 1st floor: bathroom, 2 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, garage/parking. No chain. Spacious plot.
£204,950

GLEN MAVIS WAY, BARRY
3 bed detached dwelling, constructed in the 1960s, living room leading to dining room, sitting room & conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage, viewing recommended ER=D.
£189,950



GLAN HAFREN, BARRY
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£275,000

HEOL Y GAER, BARRY
First floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, enclosed kitchen, far reaching sea views from rear, UPVC DG, GCH via combi, allocated parking, no chain. ER=C.
£153,950

FONMON PARK RD, RHOOSE
Modern semi detached, immaculately presented, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, cul de sac position, driveway leading to garage, ample space to side to extend (subject to usual planning permission) ER=C.
£128,000

EITHINEN BER, BARRY
A well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached, WC cloakroom, living room, kitchen/diner, family bathroom, driveway, enclosed garden. ER=D.
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Bowls season wrapped up with finals weekend...

THE Sully indoor bowls season is coming to an end, culminating in the in-house competitions taking place this weekend, with all ladies and men's finals being held over Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 at 10am.

The main events are the singles finals which are being competed for in the ladies by June Best and Carol Willmot, and the men's is between world no.12 Jason Greenslade and the new Welsh international Martin Clark, which is a repeat of last years brilliant final won by Clarke. There are two sessions on Saturday, 10am and 2pm, with pairs, triples and rinks, and Sunday will kick off in the morning session with two rinks finals followed at 2pm by three singles finals.

The finals will close with a pairs game between Graham Cogbill/Dick Cowling and Martin Clarke/Matthew Woodcock, ending a guaranteed weekend bonanza of bowls.

Supporters are welcome with bar and food facilities available on both days. **FP**

CLUB HOLDS AN OPEN DAY

MURCH Bowling Club members are delighted to be celebrating their 25th anniversary this year and founder members are wondering where the years went.

Over the years the club members have enjoyed many hours playing bowls both at home, at clubs in Wales, England, Scotland, and even as far afield as Canada and South Africa.

They have also had hours of fun at our social events and continue to do so.

The club has several events planned for our celebrations this year, including a special dinner in June.

We would like to extend an invitation to anyone thinking of trying their hand at outdoor bowls to join us on open day on April 18 at 2pm; overshoes and bowls will be provided.

You will meet some of our existing members who would be happy to discuss with you the merits of the game.

It would also give you a chance to enjoy our excellent facilities.

Bowling is a fun, healthy, friendly pass time which can be played and enjoyed by all ages.

We are situated at the end of Sunnycroft Lane in Dinas Powys.

Our ladies are also having a coffee morning in our club house on April 11, from 10am to 12.30pm, including bric a brac, nearly new, cake stall, raffle etc.

If you would like more information please contact Roger Mauchline (vice president) on 02920 513459, Judy Fudge (president) on 02920 515493 or Eileen Carryer (secretary) on 02920 515568. **EC**

Athletic are celebrating

BARRY Athletic Cricket Club are celebrating their 125th Anniversary in 2015 and start the celebrations with a dinner being held at The Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry on Saturday, April 18 at 7pm.

Anyone requiring information can contact the club secretary Mark Rees on 07570135831 or e-mail markrees509@hotmail.com.

They will start their season off with a friendly at home to Dinas Powys on Saturday, April 11, the 1st XI's first league game is away to Brecon and the 2nd XI at home to Dinas Powys on the Saturday, May 2. The following day, Sunday, May 3, Barry Athletic will be hosting a celebration six-a-side competition at The Athletic Ground with Barry Athletic, Barry West End, Barry Wanderers and Dinas Powys taking part with a 11am start.

The 1st XI's first home league game will be on Saturday, May 9, against the Welsh Asians.

This is sure to be a great season for this historic and iconic club. **MR**

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Skaters' sponsored event plenty of fun!

GLAMORGAN Artistic Roller Skating Club skaters recently participated in the hour-long, non-stop sponsored pyjama skate to help raise money for the club.

All the skaters had a great night taking part in various games and activities, including relay races, musical statues, follow the leader and the club dances - Gangman Style, 5678 and the big favourite Superman.

All received a certificate to show they had completed the event, and over £300 was raised by the skaters which was a fantastic result!

The coaches would like to thank the parents for all their help and support without such great members and their families the club would not be such fun to attend and also a big thank you to all the skaters for making it such a great evening.

If anyone is interested in joining, and you are between the ages of 5 - 75, please see our Facebook page, Glamorgan Artistic Roller Skating Club, or our website, Glamorgan-artistic-webs.com.

You can also pop into our Tuesday session, held at Colcot sports hall, Barry, between 6pm-8pm to see what we are all about! **AG**

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Student Hector's first winner was Always A Chance!

OXFORD Brookes University student Hector Worsley chalked up his first winner on the Jonathan Tudor-trained ex-Irish gelding Always A Chance at the North Ledbury Hunt Point-To-Point held on Hereford Racecourse on Sunday.

Hector's mount won division two of the maiden race and is owned by his mother, former MFH Georgie Howell. Always A Chance unseated Hector at the recent Brecon meeting but made amends in fine style.

An eight-year-old bay gelding, Always A Chance was former rider Jonathan Tudor's fifth winner of the season.

ANDREW'S 1-2

Bridgend's Andrew Leyshon saddled the winner and the second in the restricted race at the Wilton Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Milborne St Andrew last Saturday.

His six-year-old bay gelding Fine Resolve, ridden by Matthew Barber, finished ahead of his Llangeinor Hunt stable companion eight-year-old bay gelding Distant Sound partnered by Evan David.

Barber also won the open maiden race on Debbie Faulkner's Hellesbells. Charlotte Prichard took the ladies' open race on the odds-on favourite Minella Fifty.

WINS FOR EVAN AND TIM AT CHEPSTOW

Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan both had winners at Chepstow Racecourse last Thursday.

Evan was successful with Forgivienne, which won the three mile handicap hurdle under Adam Wedge, and Tim's recent winner Tanit River, ridden by Alan Johns, took the two mile handicap hurdle.

Evan, who had taken the opener at Warwick 24 hours earlier with King's Odyssey, made it a cross the cards double when his Armchair Theatre, ridden by Connor Ring, won the bumper at Ludlow where he is the leading trainer.

King's Odyssey was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney. **BRIAN LEE**

Barry & District men's skittle league

DIVISION 1:

Barry Park 'B'(A.Martin 30) 269, 49'ers.(G.Yarr 29) 282; Blue Monkey (N.Stokes 33) 289, Mighty Dockers (D.Morgan 29) 287; Cavaliers (R.Thomas 32) 296, Bunker Boys (S.Hobbs 30) 281; Geest (L.Galsworthy 32) 268, The Merrymen (A.Pearce 29) 270; Park Lads (D.Morgan 27) 286, Park Rangers (J.Goldsby 34) 285; The Merrymen (A.Pearce 37) 309, Cavaliers (S.Larsen 30) 296; West End Stars (D.Beattie, A.Davies 27) 267, Ex-Servicemen (D.Dawkins 30) 277.

DIVISION 2:

BP Breakaways (J.Mills 27) 270, Abercrete (R.Mountjoy 29) 267; Buffs Exiles (S.Page 29) 248,Tynewydd Lads (D.Kerslake 28) 262;

Exiles (J.Miles,A.Ladner, I.Ladner 26) 278, Barry Social (B.Allen 28) 291'; Road Runners (A.Gunn 28) 238, Tynny Fliers (J.Walters 24) 232; Sea View (A.Elston 31) 286, Exiles (S.Moore 34) 300; The Royalists (M.Roberts, G.Davies 29) 272, Posties (M.Gillimore 29) 277; Tynny Fliers (S.Taylor 33) 300, BP Breakaways (J.Rees 29) 287; Tynewydd Lads (S.Germon 28) 281, Witchill Poachers (R.Tamlyn, S.Rogers, F.Mathews 28) 284; Willie Wombles (I.Draisey 27) 264, Sea View (T.Stokes, B.Belby 29) 289; Witchill Poachers (D.Richardson 37) 348, Witchill Wizards (M.Royal 37) 340.

DIVISION 3:

British Rail (G.Percy 31) 273,Cannon Balls (A.Sparks,L.Newland 28) 280; Cannon balls (I.Forsyth 33) 295, C.U.D.(B.Saif 33) 287; Castle Boys (G.Brook 31) 274, Billy Whizz (K.Hunt 28) 268; 'H' Bells (B.Whitlock 31) 276, British Rail (D.Slugg 29) 266; The Alternatives (P.Roderick 31) 275, C.U.D.(B.Roberts 29) 265; West End Fliers (W.Nicholls 27) 251, 'H'Bells (E.Collier 28) 275. **HR**

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Please email *barryislandps@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk* or send a letter to the school, Barry Island Primary, Clive Road, Barry, CF62 5UZ for the attention of the Chair of Governors, Mr David Vining by Friday 17th April.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please ring the school and ask to speak to the acting head teacher Miss Rebecca Cadman.

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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

DOWLING
Carol Anne

Suddenly on Sunday 15th March 2015, at her home in Clerkenwell, Central London, aged 46 years.

Beloved and devoted life partner of 25 years to Steve Ratcliff, much loved daughter of Tona Dowling and the late Juney (William) Dowling, cherished sister, auntie and loyal friend to many.

For funeral arrangements, scheduled for Friday 27 March at 2.45pm at The Parish of our most Holy Redeemer, Exmouth Market, Clerkenwell, London, EC1R 4QE, contact A. Frame Funeral Directors of Lambs Conduit Street, WC1. Tel : 0207 4054901

Sheppard-Jones
Kathleen

Passed away peacefully on 21 March 2015 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, surrounded by family. Much loved mother of David and mum-in-law of Sue. Loved grandmother of Sarah, Rachel, Nathan and David and their spouses. Great grandmother of Enzo.

Will be greatly missed by all who loved and knew her.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, 31 March 2015 at 10.30am. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

BATT
Leighton

Died tragically on 20 March, 2015.

Forever in our hearts
God Bless You
Night, Night Leighton
Love you always

Nanny Hazel Mary & Bampy Roy xxx

WHITAKER
Jonathan Stone (Jon)

Suddenly, but peacefully, at home in St Brides super Ely on March 11, Jon, aged 72 years, beloved husband of Anna and devoted father of Isolde (Zolly).

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday March 30, service and interment 2.30pm at St Brides Church, St Brides super Ely. No flowers but donations if you wish to British Red Cross to support their work in Syria through *www.justgiving.com/Anna-Whitaker.*

PAYNE
Leon Ashley

Deep in our hearts, a memory is kept of one we loved and shall never forget.
Love from Mum and sister Emma.

WEBBER
Mary (Nee Thomas)

Peacefully on Sunday, March 15 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Mary of Sandpiper Road, Porthcawl. Beloved wife of the late Harry, dearly loved mother of Julia and Derek, much loved grandmother of Jamie and Diane and great grandmother of Lauren, Eva and Ella.

Funeral service at Margam Crematorium on Monday, March 30 at 1.30pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if desired, to RNLI c/o Gareth and Rhodri Howell of Esaias & Son Funeral Directors, 39 Bridge Street, Kenfig Hill, CF33 6DB, telephone 01656 740491.

WHITE
John

Peacefully in his sleep on March 23, John, aged 82 years. Loving partner of Betty.

John will be dearly missed by all the family and his many friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Home, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 2 April at 11am. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

GUNTER
Harry Brinley

Suddenly at home on 19th March 2015, Harry aged 91 years, beloved husband of the late Marie, much loved dad of Clive,Valerie, Barry and Terry, also loved by Sue, Jackie and Maria, a cherished grampy to his grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service on Wednesday 1st April 2015 at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only.

WARD
Dorothy

Peacefully on March 18 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Dorothy passed away after a short illness.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday April 1, service 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation, c/o Jack Hawkins, 10 Percy Smith Road, Boverton, Llantwit Major, CF61 1GW.

WILLIAMS
William Glyn

Sadly at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on Sunday, March 8, 2015, surrounded by his family. Glyn, of Blaen Dewi, Wick. Devoted husband of Mary, much loved father of Christine and Mike, loved and respected father-in-law of Ken and Lynne, adored grandfather of Jon and Kate.

Family flowers only, by request. Friends please meet for the service on Monday, March 30, 2015 in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. All enquiries to Rosemount Funeral Home, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, CF31 3AP, telephone 01656 653156.

CAWLEY
William Edgar (Edgar)

Peacefully at home on March 19, Edgar, aged 93 years, sadly passed away. Much loved uncle of Gloria and Barry Cawley, also a dear friend of Andrea and Greg Payne.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, April 8 at 11am.

Family flowers only, donations if desired, may be sent to Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Nicola Ellis 01446 407962.

DANCEY
Flora Enid

Jayne, Penny and Brian would like to thank family, friends and neighbours who attended Enid's funeral and helped to celebrate her life, she will be greatly missed.

A special thank you for all the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy received.

Many thanks also to Lyndsay and the Vale Funeral Service for all their help and to the Reverend Duncan Ballantyne for conducting such a lovely service.

JOHN
Jayne Susan

Peacefully on 19 March at home surrounded by her loving family. Jayne, dearly beloved wife of Nicholas, adored and devoted mother to Aimee and Bradley, a wonderful friend to all that knew her.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. A celebration of Jayne's life will be held at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 27 March at 1pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Velindre Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

OSBORNE
Elizabeth (Betty)

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to all who have supported both Betty during her illness and the family following her passing. For all the cards, messages of comfort and charity donations received.

A beautiful service was led by Reverend Challis in recognition of Betty's lifetime achievements. The family were overwhelmed to see so many friends and family members, not forgetting the many who unfortunately were unable to attend but had Betty in their thoughts that day. The sun was shining, the voices were singing and the Church was full of love.

The family would also like to extend their thanks to Lyndsay Ellis from Vale Funeral Service for all his kindness, sincerity and true compassion shown in arranging the funeral. Thank you all.

MILLER

Arthur and Liam O'Leary wish to convey their heartfelt and sincere condolences to Joanne, Dave and Iestyn on their very sad loss and to the families of all involved in this tragic incident.

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Public Notices

Public Notice

Anyone knowing of a will for Stephen George Beazer, died December 8 2013. Lately of 70a Victoria Avenue, Porthcawl, Bridgend, CF36 3HE. Please contact Finders on **0800 085 8796**

KATHARINE REMY LLOYD-JONES (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Flat 4 North Road Mews Cowbridge CF71 7DF, who died on 28/08/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 29/05/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GLAMORGAN LAW LLP
The Pavilion 60 Eastgate
Cowbridge CF71 7AB

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A BUSY YEAR FOR MEMBERS OF THE BARRY YACHT CLUB

IN his report to Barry Yacht Club's recent annual general meeting, the sailing secretary, Brian Dotchon, reviewed the sailing activities during 2014.

The weather during the season was somewhat mixed. There were many very good sailing days but no long settled spell to encourage extensive cruising. The good days were very good with clear skies and hours of sunshine but there was often more wind than required.

Brian thanked the strong support received from many members in this his first year as sailing secretary and this made the task of organising the racing activities much easier. The cruising events were in the very capable hands of Ray Brown, the cruiser class captain.

Dealing firstly with the club racing programme Brian reported that the season got off to a great start with the Bristol Channel Race for sailing pilot cutters.

The small fleet raced down to a buoy off Illfracombe before returning to Barry via a buoy off the Gower. Following a lunch at the club three of the cutters then raced down to Swansea. The cutters provided a fine spectacle in the pleasant weather over this weekend.

The points race series was very successful with nine of the scheduled 11 races completed. The two cancelled races were both points races and these succumbed respectively to an absence of competitors and extreme weather.

All of the Trophy Races were held although the Kindly Light Race had no finishers. It had been intended to set up a personal handicap system to provide a separate series of results, giving the less experienced helmsmen a better chance of success.

This was to run parallel with the normal seasonal points series. This proved impossible but with the assistance of the handicapper, Nick Hill, it is hoped that success will be achieved in 2015.

The trophies for the 2014 season were either awarded immediately after the event or at the annual dinner.

The winners were as follows:

Sam Davies Race - Dolly Kedge, Jeff Davis; Regatta 1st Tomahawk, Martin Rudkin; 2nd Sunny Lyn, Martin Wyatt; 3rd Kiskadee, Don Merrifield.

RNLI Pennant Race - Shadow, Simon Morgan (sailed by Steve Sutton); Holms Race - Sally Loper, Brian Dotchon; Highlight Race, Pepper, Bill Hogg (Porlock Weir SC); Summer Points Series - 1st Shadow, Simon Morgan (sailed by Steve Sutton); 2nd Sally Loper, Brian Dotchon; 3rd Dolly Kedge, Jeff Davis.

A total of 20 different boats entered one or more of the points series races which is a significant increase on 2013.

A total of 12 started the Regatta race and 15 Barry boats started the Highlight Race where there were seven visiting boats. However, the average turnout remained more or less the same as the previous year at 6.4 boats. The Old Seadogs Race had five entries and the Top Dog is Lyn Reeve.

DODGEMS!

The Highlight Race was, as its name suggests and for various reasons, the highlight of the racing season. The very encouraging turnout of 22 boats was set a challenging course by the OOD Justin Taylor.

Difficulties existed for both the experienced and not so experienced racers. There were many marks to round with relatively short intervening legs and this led to several collisions both with marks and with other competitors.

It is rumoured that during the presentation of prizes after the race, the Commodore's Lady, Wendy Webb, was heard to mention something about "dodgems". However, it must be said that everyone seems to have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and no-one suffered any serious damage.

Brian recorded returning with a very red face after managing to hit the Lavernock Spit buoy hard enough to instigate an insurance claim. Justin was congratulated for his efforts in setting an unusual challenge.

His team of race officials gave him excellent support and the club itself was certainly buzzing after the race.

Brian then turned to the cruising activities of club members and indicated that they had cruised very considerable distances during 2014.

Roger Lloyd in *Katy Dee* cruised the English Channel as far as Fecamp in the east and then back again via Cherbourg, the Channel Islands, northern Brittany and the Scillies. Roger was singlehanded for all but the outgoing passage to Cherbourg and for short periods inside the Rance Barrage and at the Scillies.

In her inimitable style Cynthia Norman in *Down Homer* sailed singlehanded from Milford up the Irish Sea to the west coast of Scotland before visiting the Orkneys and Shetlands on her way to Norway.

She set off mid May and spent five weeks in Norway with glorious weather before returning by more or less the same route to Milford at the end of September.

CORINTH CANAL

Jim Barton in *Tresillion* continues to cruise the eastern Mediterranean and this year traversed the Corinth Canal after leaving his winter quarters near Athens.

He then cruised the Gulf of Corinth and visited a number of ports and Corfu before laying up at Preveza on the Greek mainland. He covered a total of 750 nautical miles this year which is somewhat less than his usual total.

The club treasurer, Howard Metcalfe, purchased a splendid new power boat, *Breaksea*, early in the summer. This was built at Aalst in Belgium and he motored it back to its base in Cardiff in June.

He visited Hellevotslues in Holland, Ramsgate, Portland, Dartmouth and Newlyn on the way, covering a total of 670 nautical miles.

Owen and Jan Davies in *Shiraz* sailed to the South Coast of England visiting Falmouth and other ports before crossing to northern France and back via the Channel Islands.

Neil Burton and Penny Arnold in *Peggy* visited a number of Bristol Channel ports when going to and from Falmouth, Helford and the Scillies. They were accompanied by a number of family members at different times during this cruise. Clive Spierling in *Senara* made his usual return passage to Fowey and, with Val, visited Falmouth and various other ports during the summer.

Ian Harris sold *Sulis* in the early summer and, after much delay caused by poor weather, delivered the boat to Cork in southern Ireland for the new owner.

Nick Koops and his crew in *Siglo* left Barry early in the season and cruised down the north Cornish coast before crossing the English Channel to Camaret in the Brest estuary. They then proceeded south and visited a number of ports and off-lying islands in Biscay before reaching the Dordogne estuary. Nick was joined by Sue before entering the Canal Du Midi at Bordeaux. They then followed the canal down to the Mediterranean where the boat is presently wintering. Nick and Sue entered a log of their trip for consideration for the annual cruising award, the Lord Cope Cup. Several other members also submitted entries but their log was considered the best and they received the trophy.

Peter Stoker in *Verity* sailed from Barry in late May and travelled along the English Channel and ultimately to St Katharine's Dock, London and back. Peter was singlehanded for most of this trip but was joined by his son Simon for short periods.

Peter encountered the usual variety of British summer weather conditions and returned home by train on several occasions. The boat eventually returned to Barry at the beginning of September after covering more than 1,200 miles and visiting a total of 33 different ports and anchorages. This was considered to be an outstanding achievement and Peter was awarded the Seafarer Trophy for seamanship.

A number of other boats cruised to ports outside the Bristol Channel and these included Rob Curtis in *Twelfth Night* to Padstow and Dale, Nick Phillips in *Merlin* as far as Fishguard, Derek Irish in *Mist* and Colin Brooks in *Magic* to Milford Haven. Many members cruised to ports within the Channel for holidays and in order to attend the Bristol Channel Yachting Association (BCYA) rallies and various festivals.

The first of the cruises in company arranged by Ray Brown was to Woody Bay. Regrettably only four boats participated and this may have been due to the overcast conditions at the scheduled start time. However, the weather quickly improved and they had some splendid sailing in relatively light conditions under blue skies. Only Mike Radford in *Lesmar* reached the objective but everyone enjoyed a wonderful day afloat.

The cruises to the BCYA events at Cardiff Bay and Watchet were well attended. The entertainment was very good and was appreciated by all who joined the fleets. The cruise to Portishead became, instead, a cruise to Bristol Docks which was attended by several boats and was very enjoyable. The usual trip to Bristol in November was also well attended.

Arrangements for the 2015 racing programme are in hand and it will follow the usual format of trophy and points races. Several owners have requested a long distance overnight race and this will be included.

Ray Brown will again be organising a series of cruises in company for the coming summer and it is hoped that even more boats will participate. In addition to the usual cruise destinations it is hoped to arrange a visit to Minehead.

Brian's report indicated that 2014 had been very successful season for Barry Yacht Club with a good balance between racing and cruising activities.

If you would like further details about the club please phone 01446 735511 (with answerphone) or see our website www.barryyachtclub.co.uk.

BD

The Barry & District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Railway 8, Wyndham Cons 7; Rhoose Social 5, West End Wanderers 10; Moors Boys 8, Cadoxton Cons 7; Liberals 8, West End 7.

League table: Wyndham Cons 178, Liberals 176, Cadoxton Cons 174, Moors Boys 171, West End Wanderers 164, West End 160, Rhoose Social 155, Railway 142.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 1.5, Allsorts 5.5; Rhoose Social A 5.5, Liberals C 1.5; Rhoose Social B 5.5, Rhoosters 1.5; Liberals A 0, Sea View B 7; West End D 2, King William XII 5; Cambrian Flyers 6, Runway Club 1; Barries Boys 5, Slammers 2.

League table: Sea View B 114, West End C 110.5, Allsorts 95, King William XII 92, West End D 85.5, Slammers 84, Barries Boys 81.5, Rugby Club 77, Rhoose Social A 73.5, Rhoosters 70.5, Rhoose Social B 69, Liberals A 58, Rhoose Social C 57.5, Runway Club 54.5, Cambrian Flyers 52, Liberals C 50.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons C 3, Cadoxton Cons Z 2; Savoy B 2, Harbour B 3; Cadoxton Cons B 4, Wyndham Cons A 1; Rhoose Social B 3, Harbour A 2; Savoy A 3, West End C 2; Penarth Cons B 1, Rhoose Social C 4.

League table: Harbour B 90, Savoy A 87, West End C 70, Cadoxton Cons B 69, Cadoxton Cons Z 63, Rhoose Social B 56, Rhoose Social C 55, Harbour A 52, Wyndham Cons A 52, Savoy B 43, Penarth Cons B 42, Wyndham Cons C 41.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Railway A 1, Market Street C 4; Sully Sports A 3, Railway C 2; Market Street B 2, Services Social B 3; Penarth Cons D 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Railway B 4, West End B 1; Liberators 5, Penarth Cons A 0.

League table: Railway A 86, Railway B 65, Market Street B 63, Liberators 62, Penarth Cons D 62, Services Social B 61, Market Street C 59, Sully Sports A 55, Cadoxton Cons A 54, Penarth Cons A 54, *Railway C 42, West End B 42 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk or Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Beavers hold annual gala

BARRY Beavers held their gala on March 21 at Barry Leisure centre; we came second overall, competing against seven Welsh clubs.

The medalists were: gold Abigail Finch girls 25m; gold Jack Kemp boys 25m; gold senior relay Mark Eveleigh/Gareth Lloyd/Nicky Cushen/James Jones; silver Lucy Lynch girls 25m; silver Callum Savory boys 25m; silver Louis Davies boys 50m; silver Will Griffiths men's 50m; silver Sarah Davies ladies 100m; silver junior relay Jesse Rodgers/Tyler Savory/Courtney Rogers/Abigail Finch; bronze Courtney Rogers girls 50m; bronze Ffion Jones girls 100m.

All the other swimmers improved their times, and they were Lyndsey Johnston, Helen Lynch, Joanna Davies, Shannon Rogers, Philip Daly, John Evans, Talisha Rogers, Layla Rogers, Robert Lynch, Matthew Lack, Kyle Siirak, Tracey Marchant/ Sophie Woodham and Heather Williams.

We would like to thank Greggs and Renishaw for sponsoring our gala and Tescos, Morrisons and Asda for their raffle prizes; also all the staff at Barry Leisure Centre for all their work making our gala go smoothly.

Thank you to our guests Howard and Carol Hamilton, Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale and also our patrons Mr and Mrs David Jenkins (High Sheriff) and Alun Cairns MP for presenting the medals and cups.

Also thank you to all the officials helping on the poolside, you all did well, also a thank you to Julie Doble for the catering.

PF

(Keep an eye out for pictures next week).

LOCAL BOWLS CLUB WELCOME NEW PLAYERS

BARRY Athletic Bowling Club is a private club situated on Barry Island and forms part of the Barry Athletic Sports complex comprising tennis, cricket and football - it even has its own brass band!

The new season starts on Saturday, April 11 at 2.30pm and we would very much like to welcome new members male and female whether a complete novice or experienced bowler to come along and meet the team and sample the game of bowls (weather permitting).

All you will need is a pair of flat heel-less shoes and we will provide the rest.

We have one of the finest bowling greens in the area which is professionally maintained to a very high standard.

Come along and have a go, you might enjoy yourself. There is no age limit and it is very good exercise for the elderly.

We have qualified coaching staff waiting to show you the ropes so, if you wish, you can contact me for further details on 01446 410708 or email clive.cottrell@virgin media.com.

The spring general meeting takes place on Thursday, April 9, at 7pm.

CC

Sully bridge club results

MONDAY March 16, North/South:

1st = Peter Millar/Trish Tracy 57.18, 2nd = Evarard Kerslake/Roger Cradick 57.18, 3rd Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews 56.94. East/West: 1st Merion Avon/Dorothy Foulkes 56.71, 2nd Carol Cochlin/Val Davies 53.24, 3rd Sean Macdougall/Una Gavin 52.31.

Wednesday, March 18, North/South: 1st Bunty Wiseman/Anne Johns 68.43, 2nd Trish Tracy/Mike Hurst 62.34, 3rd

Brian Gardner/Gareth Stone 62.02. East/West: 1st Peter Millar/Anne Hurst

60.42, 2nd David Hopkins/Lilian Hopkins 58.91, 3rd Pat James/Penny Jones 54.33.

Saturday, March 21, North/South: 1st Trish Tracy/Peter Millar 64.88, 2nd Pam Sherman/Shirley Powell 64.29, 3rd Hazel Craig/Peter Craig 59.82. East/West: 1st Sean Macdougall/Anne Macdougall 60.32, 2nd Carol Cochlin/Phillip Bottrell 56.88, 3rd Una Gavin/Brenda Shepherd 52.38.

The bridge club has an age range of 50 to 94, and these members regularly contribute to a 'bring and buy' library that we run, the proceeds of which go to charity.

We have 115 members and run three bridge sessions every week from 2pm-5pm. We provide a valuable social meeting and entertainment role for the community.

Our chosen charity is Ty Hafan and we regularly manage to send a cheque for £50 when the sale of the books reaches this amount. We also run various events to raise larger sums of money for them.

EK

Barrivale news

THE results from Barrivale Bridge Club for March 17 are as follows:

First, Debbie and Simon Richards 64.58 per cent; second, Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond 61.98; third, Jenny Vaughan and Mike Close 57.81.

Mark Roderick and Noelle Bond won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. Telephone 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

The heat is on at Llandow Kart Club!

ALTHOUGH the weather was a little on the wintry side, action at round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2015 championship kept everyone warm as a large entry produced exciting racing without a single red flag or unnecessary delay.

Numbers were given a healthy boost thanks to the inclusion of both the NKRA classes and smattering of visiting drivers getting experience of the South Wales Karting Centre circuit, with a first-ever grid of Junior X30s and massed Bambinos both notable inclusions in the line-up.

The finals proved to be some of the most exciting for a long time, with the action given the added intrigue of an ever-evolving surface that saw the advantage swing back and forth between wet and slick-shod runners as each race took to the track.

No fewer than 15 Bambinos took to the track, including Llandow stalwarts Nathan Browning and Ella Stevens. Both gave a good account of themselves, but could do nothing to deny Chance Bennett a clean sweep of fastest times.

Stevens ended the day in second spot, ahead of Alfie Briggs and Brandon Carr, with Browning edging Oliver Wright for fifth. Cameron Crockett and Ryley Price, who both appeared at Llandow in February, were eighth and ninth respectively.

The Cadet Honda entry also took a return to the sort of numbers seen in recent seasons, with 22 runners. February runner-up Alex Lloyd took first blood with victory in heat one, before Kieron Jermey and last month's outright winner, Oliver Clarke staked their claim in heats two and three.

Clarke again came out on top in the main event, edging Lloyd by 0.120s to reprise their February battle. Guy Cunnington came through to complete the podium, ahead of Henry Laws and Jermey, but another couple of laps could have turned the result on its head with slick-shod sixth-placed driver Oliver Bearman clearly faster than those ahead of him as the track dried.

While the Honda entry would have been enough to warrant the Cadet categories being split, 14 IAME runners merited track time of their own – and were equally generous when it came to sharing race wins.

Dexter Patterson got the ball rolling in heat one, before Albert Carter and Taylor Barnard came good in the remaining qualifiers. The final, however, again came down to tyre choice and saw Patterson return to the fore, pulling out a decisive 6.5secs cushion as wets proved to be the answer.

The closely-matched group of Brad Kenneally, Carter, Llandow regular Shay Keough and Barnard – who were covered by 0.2secs – battled over the remaining podium positions.

By contrast, the Junior Honda class belonged to one driver all day, with Ben Cutler sweeping the meeting despite the best efforts of Alex Wilkins and novice Finley Green.

The first-ever event for the X30 class saw three runners join the Junior TKM regulars to push another grid into double figures, and saw Alfie Brown claim two heat wins before adding the final for good measure. Philip Hanson denied Brown a clean sweep by taking victory in heat three, while Callum Bradshaw was always in the mix.

The TKM runners shared their heat wins between Hugo Holmes, Lewis Griffiths and Louis Beaven, before Ryan Edwards trumped them all in the main event, heading Holmes and February winner Alex Rees on the podium.

With Junior Rotax still absent from the running order, the younger half of the programme was completed by the visiting Junior Blues and, despite being a little slimmer in number than previous years, the racing still proved competitive. It also appeared to be going the way of Jake Calvert after he claimed all three heats, but the final was another matter, as a the frontrunner's choice of slicks proved to be the wrong one.

With the top two finishers being disqualified for technical infringements, the honours eventually went the way of Thomas Massarella, with Calvert a distant second and Lee Chamberlain completing the podium.

A changing of the guard has been creeping up on Senior Honda for some time, but was finally confirmed this weekend as the new wave of drivers dominated. Monty Gorringe and Kristian Prosser claimed the heat wins, and the former's superior haul was confirmed in the final as he narrowly held the upper hand over his rival, although the pair remained separated by just half a second at the chequered flag.

Tom Ford and Patrick Hill, who have followed Gorringe and Prosser into the senior ranks in past year, finished third and fourth, while Roberto Nardone and Nigel Vickery did their bit to uphold 'senior' honour from a comfortable distance.

Senior Rotax also saw a former junior champion making his mark, with Rob Ellis leading from the front in each of the day's four races. Sam Morgan, Scott Rose and Dilip Singh took it in turns to give chase through the heats, before Morgan returned to P2 to give Ellis his closest battle of the day in the main event. Gareth Taylor edged Singh for the final podium spot.

The Rotax field was joined by three TKM Extreme entries, with Nicholas Rees only denied a clean sweep by problems in heat three. Callum Johns picked up the pieces on that occasion and later claimed second spot in the final, ahead of Alex Lewis.

Formula Blue guested amongst the senior classes, with a number of familiar faces returning for their annual assault on the Llandow circuit. Chris Derrick and Ian Branfield shared the heat wins, before the latter equalled their tallies at two apiece, by coming out on top in the final. It may have been a different story had tyre choice not again been crucial, with Matthew Parr and Kevin Ford completing the podium and Derrick only coming home in eighth spot.

Round three of the Llandow Kart Club championship will take place at South Wales Karting Centre on Sunday, April 19.

RESULTS

BAMBINO - 1. Chance Bennett, 2. Ella Stevens, 3. Alfie Briggs; CADET HONDA - 1. Oliver Clarke, 2. Alex Lloyd, 3. Guy Cunnington; CADET IAME - 1. Dexter Patterson, 2. Brad Kenneally, 3. Albert Carter; JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Ben Cutler, 2. Alex Wilkins, 3. Finley Green; JUNIOR TKM - 1. Ryan Edwards,
2. Hugo Holmes, 3. Alex Rees.
JUNIOR X30 - 1. Alfie Brown, 2. Callum Bradshaw, 3. Philip Hanson; JUNIOR BLUE - 1. Thomas Massarella, 2. Jake Calvert, 3. Lee Chamberlain; SENIOR HONDA - 1. Monty Gorringe, 2. Kristian Prosser, 3. Tom Ford; SENIOR ROTAX - 1. Rob Ellis, 2. Sam Morgan, 3. Gareth Taylor.
TKM EXTREME - 1. Nicholas Rees, 2. Callum Johns, 3. Alex Lewis; FORMULA BLUE - 1. Ian Branfield, 2. Matthew Parr, 3. Kevin Ford; BEST NOVICE: Ben Watson (Cadet Honda); DRIVER OF THE DAY: Finley Green (Junior Honda).

CL

NEW SPORTS WORKSHOP

THE Vale Council's Sports Development Team is offering a free Keeping Safe in Sport workshop to young people aged 13 to 17 who volunteer in a sports club in the Vale.

The workshop will take place on Thursday, March 26, from 6pm to 8pm at the Civic Offices in Barry and will teach volunteers to be able to identify and recognise good practice for keeping children safe and support safe sports sessions for children.

To book a place, or for more information, contact Julia Sky on 01446 704793 or email Jsky@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

These workshops are being delivered as part of the Vale Council's Creating Confident Coaches project which forms part of the Vale Sport plan.

For further information regarding coach education opportunities in the Vale please contact the Sports Development Team on 01446 704793.

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61 **PEUGEOT 308 Access 5-Dr** In met bronze, 26,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**
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Laing the hero as midfielder sends VIFC into Cup final!

VI Football Club secured their second final after their toughest test yet against Premier League heavyweights Cardiff Airport.

Despite defensive heroics from the VI back line, Airport went ahead from close range at 38 minutes when their striker pounced on a goalmouth scramble to score.

Shortly after the halftime break, the Premiership leaders were reduced to 10 men after an Airport striker received a second yellow.

The added boost to the VI's cause spurred on Bill Laing's boys and Jordan Mortimore leveled on the hour mark, flicking Leigh Lewis' throw goalbound with his head.

An outstanding win then completed by a superb volley from Joe Laing. The young midfielder's defensive work is often praised but this weekend he makes the headlines for confirming a second final for his side.

After the match, the VI manager Bill Laing said: "I'm chuffed with the result after a gutsy second half after I feel we didn't do ourselves justice in the first. It was a typical semi-final where neither side wanted to give anything away."

Even with a confidence in their abilities, the VI's were labelled as underdogs heading into this cup clash with a Cardiff Airport who had won 19 games in a row across three competitions.

The game almost fell victim to postponement with the referee ruling the favoured BSC barrier pitch unplayable. Luckily, there was a free pitch across the road and the match kicked off 20 minutes late.

Despite the disruption, the encounter began at a high tempo with Airport edging possession for the opening exchanges.

An unchanged VI back four managed to frustrate the Premier League attackers and showed why they've only conceded one goal in their last three matches.

Richie Humphreys was the pick of the defensive heroics with a superb, last-ditch, sliding goal-line clearance that shocked the already celebrating Cardiff players and fans.

Five minutes afterwards, the Airport supporters did have something to cheer about. Cardiff have scored 83 goals in 15 league matches (40 more than anyone else in the Premiership) and their pressure finally came to fruition when their striker pounced on a loose ball in the box to finish from close range.

Leigh Lewis was brought on at the break to change things up and only minutes into the second half, the VI's received an extra boost as a moment of madness from one of Airport's forwards caused his dismissal from the game.

The striker was sent off for a second yellow after obstructing a VI free-kick from within the legal 10 yards. A harsh decision from the referee but a needless risk taken from an already booked player.

Bill Laing's side still had everything to do as they trailed by a goal against the best defence across all three VOGAFL divisions and 15 minutes passed of VI pressure but still no equaliser.

Aaron Rogers entered the fray to support the attack and the Division One leaders adapted to a more offense driven formation.

The two attacking substitutions kept Cardiff on the back foot and it wasn't long before the VI's persistence paid off. Jordan Mortimore has dominated many a headline in recent weeks as he enjoys a special scoring run of 13 games in a row - and the captain notched again.

One of L.Lewis' many attacking attributes are his long throw-ins and the winger returned to the side to deliver a pin point assist to Mortimore. The VI top scorer flicked on Lewis' throw with his head at the near post and levelled the score in this hotly contested tie.

New players have integrated well into the side including the likes of Flynn, Humphreys and Garrison, but the VI's have missed a couple of their standout originals from last season including Phil Morgan's goals and Leigh Lewis' assists.

One constant in the side however is the young midfielder Joe Laing. His work is often underrated as a defensive midfielder, and he rarely makes the headlines - but not in this game.

Another L.Lewis long throw caused problems for Airport in a packed penalty box and the ball fell to fellow substitute Rogers. The returning striker touched the loose ball towards Laing, who placed a volleyed effort into the top corner of Aiport's goal.

His squad surrounded him as he celebrated only his second goal of the season but possibly the VI's most important.

With only 10 men, Cardiff struggled to mount substantial attacks to level the game but did cause VI hearts to skip a beat when a deflected cross bounced off keeper Paul Lucas' post.

A monumental win in a huge week of the club's short two-year history, the VI's booking a second final in just seven days after beating last season's silverware rivals Rhoose Rovers in the Supporters Cup semi-finals the weekend before.

Team: P.Lucas, R.Lewis, N.Cox, R.Humphreys, J.Robinson, T.Charles, J.Laing, S.Flynn, D.Cleave, C.Goodwin, J.Mortimore.
Substitutes: R.West, D.Garrison, L.Lewis, J.Austin, A.Rogers.

We'd like to thanks the many fans on both sides that gave the match a voice Saturday and also our sponsors - Owens Motor Services, Llandow. Higgsy Site Services, Barry & The Three Horseshoes Inn, St Athan.

We also wish the best of luck to outgoing squad member Sean Flynn.

The summer signing leaves the VI's to join the armed forces after enjoying a successful season for the club. Eight goals for the VIFC have seen Flynn integrate himself into an already competitive starting line up to help the VI's fight for silverware across three competitions.

The VI's also received a boost in their league title quest as Sully Sports did the current division frontrunners a huge favour by beating second placed Wenvoe Arms 4-3.

Wenvoe currently sit eight points behind VIFC but did have enough games in hand to overtake them by a single point. However, this setback for Nathan Osbourne's Wenvoe means they can only climb to two points behind the VI's with victories in their remaining spare games.

Elsewhere, there were large margin victories for Cogan and Dinas Powys while Cadoxton Athletic edged their derby 3-1 against Cadoxton Barry, and Albion slipped to a 10th consecutive league defeat.

RC

Cowbridge darts league round-up

On Tuesday, March 17, a full programme of league matches was played.

The Edmondes B lost 2-7 to Highwayman Inn while the Hare and Hounds defeated the Old Post Ladies 7-2, with John Izzard hitting a 144 3-dart out.

The Farmers Arms lost 1-8 to the Edmondes A with Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) hitting a 180. Llanharry won 8-1 against the Edmondes C, with Victor John (Llanharry) hitting a 180 and also winning a leg in just nine darts.

Present league standings after 18 matches, are: Llanharry (133 points), Edmondes B (100), Highwayman Inn (95), Edmondes A (86), Hare and Hounds (75), Farmer's Arms (66), Edmondes C (57) and Old Post Ladies (34).

On Tuesday, March 31, there is a full programme of league matches. The Old Post Ladies hosts the Edmondes A, the Highwayman Inn hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes C hosts the Hare and Hounds and the Edmondes B hosts Llanharry.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Baker's heroics sees Llantwit reach final!

LLANTWIT MAJOR'S Year 10 boy's football team have made it through to the final of the Cardiff and Vale Cup final for the second year running after beating Plasmawr 4-3 on penalties.

It was an outstanding effort by the entire team to overcome their rivals who they have lost to before, including in last year's final of the same cup.

Llantwit started the brighter of the two sides and created a number of early chances but were unable to get that all important goal. Plasmawr then grew in confidence and started to put pressure on Llantwit's defence, but they held firm.

Midway through the second half Plasmawr scored with a precise free kick to lead 1-0 but this only spurred Llantwit on to keep pressing in search of an equaliser.

That equaliser came when substitute Liam Butcher popped up unmarked in the box to lay a perfectly weighted pass to striker Angus Mitchell, who buried his shot in the bottom right hand corner.

With eight minutes remaining Llantwit's defence and midfield again held firm to see the game into penalties.

Five penalty takers bravely stepped forward to take a penalty but not all five were needed.

Sam Snaith calmly placed his spot kick into the bottom right of the goal to lead 1-0. Plasmawr equalised before Cole Baker buried his penalty in the bottom left.

Joe Baker then made an excellent save low to his left which gave Llantwit their first glimpse of the final. Luke Beattie scored next with a very well placed shot and Plasmawr also scored to make the score 3-2.

Joe Baker then stepped up to the penalty spot and kept our 100 per cent scoring record alive - but his heroics were not over yet!

He then returned to the goal and saved Plasmawr's fourth penalty, resulting in Llantwit's progress to the final, winning 4-2 on penalties.

This was an excellent result for the Year 10 team and testament to how far they have developed as a team and matured as individuals, as they lost to this same side 7-1 in last year's Cardiff and Vale Cup final. They will now play either St Teilos or Fitzalan Comprehensive in the final, to be played later this year.

Squad: Joe Baker, Cole Baker. Declan Ellis, David Gaughan, James Cook, Lewis Brown, Sam Snaith, Luke Beattie, Ben Boyd, Luke George, Angus Mitchell, Liam Butcher, Dan Clarke, Lloyd Richards, Ryan Malton.

SB

Joel is off to join Toulon

JOEL RINGER, the captain of Cardiff and Vale College's Rugby Academy team, has been signed to top French team Toulon.

Joel has signed an academy contract with the French giants. The son of former Wales flanker Paul Ringer will be following in the footsteps of Leigh Halfpenny and Bryan Habana.

Joel said: "I'm very excited – it's an opportunity that no-one my age gets. Usually players my age end up in England if they decide to leave Wales. Toulon, in my opinion, is the best club side in the northern hemisphere."

When scouts from the club spoke to him, Joel said the decision to accept the academy offer was a "no-brainer".

The 18-year-old business studies student from Penarth will move out to Toulon, and his family will accompany him for the first few weeks as he settles down in his new life.

Joel said his experience at CAVC has stood him in good stead.

"The college has helped me and also the rugby academy has been hugely supportive," he explained. "The support on the sporting and academic side has been a massive help."

Great result for Vale chess team!

ROUND five of the seven round Welsh Premier League saw the Vale play our nemesis, Cardiff.

We always seem to get them halfway through the season when we still have hopes of finishing in the top two only for these hopes to be dashed by defeat to Cardiff.

This time however it was our turn to win by a score of 3.5 to 2.5. This win was earned by drawing on the top three boards, an area where Cardiff are particularly strong, and winning two of the bottom three boards.

This victory has moved us up to second in the table with six points from four games.

We are flying the flag for the East Glamorgan League as we are behind Abergavenny, who we still have to play and only better Cardigan on tie-break.

Our other remaining game is against Nidum who are normally a very strong team but this season they are struggling at the bottom of the league - two wins and who knows!

There were also two league games for the Barry club. The Bosons played host to the Penarth Pirates and eventually took a 3-5 to 1.5 victory with three wins, a draw and a defeat.

This has temporarily moved the Bosons back to the top of the league but they have played more matches than their rivals and will likely drop to fourth when all the other teams complete their 16th matches as well.

In division 3 there was a tough encounter for the Quarks. In a match with evenly rated players the Quarks lost to the team immediately below them, the Cardiff Cavaliers, 3-2.

However with a big win for Pontypridd Phoenix the Quarks, Cavaliers and Phoenix now find themselves all on 42 points only separated by the tie break which is currently in favour of the Quarks.

With difficult matches against the two teams above them still to come, and only three games left, the Quarks could find themselves outside the promotion spots come the end of April!

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

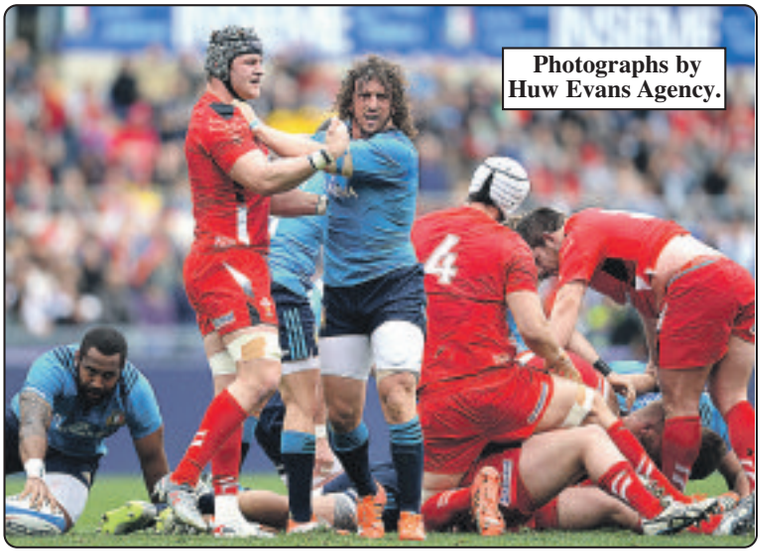
For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Who said rugby is boring?

The three-way tries bonanza that decided who dares wins the race to the Six Nations championship!



Photographs by Huw Evans Agency.

ABOVE:
Wales' skipper, Sam Warburton, on the charge. His try was one highlight among many in the Rome arena.

ABOVE:
'Hang on, where's the ball?' Wales start to get on top as battle is waged up front.

BACK PAGE COMMENT
by Don John

AS the Welsh players lined up against Italy at Stadio Olympico in Rome on Saturday for the start of a three-way guessing game over the final outcome of the 2015 Six Nations championship, they knew that win, lose or draw, they were in for a long afternoon.

Like Wales, two other rivals were also vying for the coveted title in what was to be a truly remarkable finale – each with just one loss behind them – but the complex maths meant that a simple win was unlikely to be enough, with Wales trailing way behind the others on points difference.

They were keenly aware that pre-tournament favourites Ireland would be up next to stake their claim against the struggling Scots at Murrayfield, while England were later favoured to beat the unpredictable French at home in Twickenham, and also had a higher tries haul – should it come down to that.

So the odds were firmly against head coach Warren Gatland's men from the start, and their only hope was to swamp the Italians under a deluge of points, while, at the same time, defending their own line, and trust that results elsewhere went their way – a risky strategy against dour opponents who had already claimed Scotland's scalp and, moreover, had never found any difficulty in running up double figures against Wales in the past.

Gatland himself acknowledged this banana skin beforehand, warning: "*The worst thing for us would be to go out and try to score 40-50 points against Italy, end up playing too much rugby early on and lose the game – then find Scotland and France win and we have potentially cost ourselves the championship. Let's win the game first!*"

The Kiwi was wise to be wary, for although Wales had won 18 of the 21 fixtures between the two since 1994, many of these were far from one-sided affairs: in fact, Italy had won two of the nine matches on their own soil (30-22 in 2003 and 23-20 in 2007), and had even earned a shock 18-18 draw at the Millennium Stadium in March 2006.

True, Wales had once steamrollered over the tournament's so-called 'minnows' (60-21 at Treviso), but that was way back in Rugby World Cup year 1999, 12 months before an emergent Italy entered the Six Nations, and the modern day descendants of ancient Rome have grown as a fighting force since then.

The big question now was – could Wales match or surpass that 1999 score line, to have any chance of wiping out the big points deficit – and throw down the gauntlet to the camps of their two main title rivals who would be anxiously looking on and doing their sums in Edinburgh and London?

It didn't look too promising when Wales were penalised straight from the kick-off and immediately fell three points behind; but Leigh Halfpenny equalised five minutes later when Italy were penalised and was then called on again in another exchange of penalties, which levelled the score at 6-6.

In the absence of injured first choice props Samson Lee and Gethin Jenkins, the Welsh scrum was expected to struggle, with inexperienced young recruits up against the gnarled old veterans of the Italian front row.

This indeed proved to be the case, but in fact, Ospreys' Aaron Jarvis and new boy Rob Evans (Scarlets) steadied well after early struggles up front and would go on to make their presence felt around the park as the game loosened up.

At this stage, though, it was Italy applying the pressure and it was somewhat against the run of play when Wales inched ahead through a try by Jamie Roberts, following a clever chip ahead by Halfpenny, who failed to convert.

Welsh relief was short lived when Italy regained the lead with a converted try four minutes later that took the score to 13-11. Then Wales suffered a further hammer blow when Halfpenny was injured making a try-saving tackle and was replaced by Scott Williams, who went on to the wing, with Liam Williams moving to full back.

Almost on the stroke of halftime, Wales were awarded a penalty which outside half Dan Biggar, who had taken over the kicking duties, lofted over to make the scoreline 13-14 to Wales.

The one-point lead at the change-over was a fair reflection of a below-par, error-riddled first half that made Welsh hopes of a title-winning points blitz seem a very distant dream indeed.

In fact, though, the second half saw a magical transformation, with an effervescent Wales running in seven tries from all directions (including a hat-trick by George North), all but one converted by Biggar, as they suddenly opened to the realisation that they had just 40 minutes to chase the championship dream.

It began with livewire Liam Williams, who raced through defenders to jubilantly touch down near the posts, and then set up North for the first of his three tries, before scrum half Rhys Webb darted over – quickly followed by two more North tries.

Skipper Sam Warburton then joined in the try spree with a lung-searing solo effort and Scott Williams' converted try completed a breathless second half which had yielded 47 points.

It was slightly marred by a breakaway converted try by Italy almost on the stroke of full time, to make the final score 20-61 – almost identical to that 1999 result in Treviso!

The '*who dares wins*' challenge was for the Irish to triumph by 21 points, the English 26 points, if they were to snatch the Six Nations trophy.

The Welsh players had done all they could in an heroic effort, led (as always) from the front by Warburton and deserved man-of-the-match Alun Wyn Jones. They had raised the bar, and now had to wait on news from Murrayfield and Twickenham.

In the event, of course, last up England narrowly failed to reach the target set by six points, despite a 55-35 victory over France, leaving the jubilant Irish to retain the championship after crushing sorry Scotland by 40-10.

Perhaps, though, on a day when a total of 221 points were scored, including 27 tries, rugby union was the true winner – giving a timely reminder in World Cup year of how exciting a running game it can be – and not just turgid, crash-bang-wallop!

After such an impressive Six Nations rugby display, Wales, England and Ireland will be heading for the tournament with their hopes high, but they should be wary of seeing that final bonanza day as a repudiation of canny New Zealand coach Steve Hansen's comment on "boring", defensively-minded northern hemisphere rugby.

No doubt he intended it as an early psychological shot across the home nations' bows before RWC hostilities commence in the autumn.

In truth, though, teams throwing caution to the wind to chase points margins would suit the Kiwi coach no end, for it would play right into the hands of the southern hemisphere giants who are long conditioned to such a fast-paced style of play and have the weaponry in their arsenal to combat it.

Either way, the equally canny Kiwi, Gatland, is hardly likely to swallow the bait!

A COFFEE WITH CAIRNS

OUR reporter sat down for a coffee with Alun Cairns, to learn more about the man who has represented the residents of the Vale in Parliament since 2010.

Our reporter: Alun, you've been the Vale MP for five years – what have you tried to achieve?

Alun: **There is no job description as an MP, but from the moment I was elected I wanted to do three things – pass laws in Parliament, champion Barry and the Vale and, importantly, help any resident that has been let down or treated unfairly.**

It has been an incredibly interesting period and I feel like I am just getting started. I have tried to help as many people as possible, from the smallest issue to securing a life changing operation – I see helping people in any area of the Vale as my most important role.

Our reporter: What have you taken to Parliament from the Vale?

Alun**: A major achievement has been the success of my call to change the law on nuisance phone calls. This issue was raised by Barry and the rural Vale residents, contacting me about the ridiculous amount of nuisance calls that we all received whether we wanted them or not. The law is set to be changed forcing companies to display their number when calling. This means residents can find out who is calling and block the calls.**

It is my job to represent the views of my constituents – I have done so for the past five years and hope to continue to do the same after the election.

Our reporter: Do you have any other message for the residents of the Vale?

Alun**: Just a simple thank you for allowing me the privilege of representing the Vale of Glamorgan in Parliament. I want to continue to serve, and I am looking forward to the election campaign. I hope to see the many people that I have met over the past few years when I am out knocking doors during the campaign.**

If you see me, please say hello and if you have any questions during the campaign, just email me at alun@aluncairns.com

ABOVE: ***Alun has visited many sports clubs around Barry and the Vale.***

RIGHT: ***Alun Cairns fights for better services in the Vale, like improved broadband and 4G mobile reception.***

Alun with his wife Emma and son Henri do many activities in their spare time.

RIGHT: ***Alun has taken action on the island and delivered results in Barry and the Vale.***

Alun Cairns working for Barry and Vale residents in Parliament

Alun has raised several thousands of pounds for charity. He is running in the 2015 London Marathon.

Alun Cairns is a backer of small business. The regeneration of Barry Island will grow the economy in the Vale.

This 4-page wrap has been funded by voluntary donations to the Vale of Glamorgan Conservatives.

MP calls for '4G' pitches across Barry and Vale

CAMPAIGN ON THE LOCAL SPORTS SCENE

Alun Cairns MP is campaigning for artificial, next-generation '4G' sports pitches to be installed in Barry and the Vale to prevent the postponement of sports matches in the winter months.

He recently met with coaches and players from the Barry Mini League, who told him that teams often go for many weeks without playing because of the poor state of the pitches.

Current facilities are often deemed unplayable during bad weather conditions, but artificial pitches are able to cope.

Sport Wales has made funding available for 4G pitches to be built in the Vale, and Alun is pressing to make sure that this is used for installations in Barry, Dinas Powys and Llantwit Major.

Alun said, "I have met with teams from Barry, Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Cowbridge to discuss the need for new artificial surface facilities.

"It is vital to ensure that Barry and the Vale have a full complement of 4G pitches as soon as possible to avoid disruptions to community sport.

"Getting children across the Vale playing sport is really important and a real passion of mine. It teaches teamwork and discipline alongside the obvious health benefits. Let's make sure they have the pitches they need."

Alun added: "Barry is the largest town in Wales, and the principal town in the Vale – we really need to see the investment being made in providing players of field sports with a facility that the community can use.

"We need to plans put in place so that players of all ages and abilities don't have to suffer another winter of postponements and poor playing surfaces."

Alun is calling for better sports facilities in Barry and the rural Vale. Children need the best opportunity to develop sporting skills.

Vale MP calls for airport 'ghost bus' to be scrapped to save local bus services

Figures obtained by Vale of Glamorgan MP Alun Cairns show that the barely-used T9 Airport Express service costs nearly £450,000 per year to run.

Alun Cairns, a long standing critic of the T9 service is dismayed at the huge cost of running the unpopular airport link bus at a time when local bus services need support.

The T9, dubbed the 'M'T9 and 'Ghost Bus' by local people, costs £1,499 per day in the summer and £849 per day during the winter months.

Peter Woodford, a Barry resident, said, "I see the T9 going up and down Port Road. Most of the time it looks completely empty. I can't believe the Labour Welsh Government are spending so much money on a service that is barely used."

Alun Cairns wants to see the money spent on the T9 allocated to local bus routes.

He said, "It is a shame that at the same time as cutting subsidies to the buses that local people rely on, the Labour Welsh Government have decided to prioritise spending on a service attracting so little demand.

"As part of my campaign to secure bus services in Barry and the Vale, I want to see T9 funding used to support local buses."

EMPLOYMENT BOOM IN BARRY AND VALE

Alun Cairns MP has welcomed the news that unemployment continues to fall in Barry and the Vale, with 381 fewer people claiming job seekers allowance since February 2014.

Since 2010, unemployment has fallen significantly and more families have been able to build on the security of a regular wage to get on life. In the Vale, more than 38,000 residents have seen their income tax cut since 2010 and the 2015 budget set out a plan to further boost job prospects growth locally.

Alun regularly visits companies across all areas of the Vale to better understand the issues affecting business, and to hear exciting plans for job creation in a number of industries. Employment prospects continue to improve in the Vale, with significant investment being made by many companies and the regeneration of Barry Island.

Alun said: "It is great news that unemployment continues to fall in the Vale of Glamorgan. We are now entering a sustained period of recovery and the Government will stick to the long-term economic plan. I am encouraged by the confidence being shown by local businesses investing in growth and job creation."

Alun added: "I find it inspiring to see entrepreneurs grow their businesses, and I want to attract them to the Vale of Glamorgan. These businesses create job and apprenticeships for our sons and daughters. The Conservative long-term economic plan is designed to support the next big business project here in Barry and the Vale."

Alun fights for Barry and the Vale.

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